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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, we look to You for refuge. You are master of ocean, Earth, and sky. Every good thing we have comes from You. Your wisdom is worth much more than silver or gold. Though troubles multiply in our Nation and world, You simply need to speak to bring order from chaos and harmony from discord.

Lord, use our lawmakers and instruct them in Your precepts. Inspire them to live for Your glory. Use them to hasten the day when Your will be done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, January 28, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State

of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the past week, the Senate has been confirming President Biden's Cabinet nominees with significant cooperation between both parties. Today, however, the Republican minority has forced the Senate to jump through a series of procedural hoops that will further delay the confirmation of one of our country's chief national security officials, the Secretary of Homeland Security.

It has now been 8 days since President Biden was sworn into office, and as a result of an objection from one Member—just one Member from the Republican minority—it will be another 4 days until we can complete the confirmation of Mr. Mayorkas to be our next Secretary of Homeland Security. What could have been the tidy work of a few hours on President Biden's first day will drag on for a week and a half. Make no mistake

about it—he will be confirmed. This dilatory action will not succeed, but it will prevent the Senate from doing other important business.

It has become a point of pride for the Republican leadership to say that they are treating President Biden's nominees more fairly than Mr. Trump's, but I remind my colleagues that former President Trump had his first DHS Secretary, Secretary Kelly, confirmed on his Inauguration Day.

There is a reason that there has been bipartisan cooperation in the past to confirm the Homeland Security Secretary. Whatever our differences on policy, both parties have agreed that the prolonged delay of these nominations is no good—no good—for our national security.

That is particularly the case right now. Our government recently suffered an unprecedented cyber attack. In the wake of January 6, the threat of violence and domestic terrorism remains a great concern. But because of the tactics of some Republican Members—particularly the junior Senator from Missouri—Mr. Mayorkas's nomination is being needlessly stalled.

My friends on the other side don't have to agree with Mr. Mayorkas on the final points of every policy. I am sure they don't share the exact views of every appointment to a Democratic President's Cabinet. But that is not a sufficient reason to oppose a nomination, especially one as important as Homeland Security.

You don't have to take my word for it; listen to Michael Chertoff, President Bush's former DHS Secretary. He said:

If members of Congress want to contest elements of [Biden's] proposal[s], they are free to do so. . . . But hostage taking is not an appropriate way to do this, particularly if a result of that is to put the lives of [the American people] in jeopardy.

Chertoff went on to say that actions to thwart Mayorkas's nomination were “irresponsible and unconscionable.” “Irresponsible and unconscionable”—

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S181

that is President Bush's former Secretary of Homeland Security, not a Democrat.

Well, the Senate is not going to tolerate this irresponsible and unconscionable delay. Despite the tactics from the Republican side, the Senate will begin work on this crucial nomination today, and he will be confirmed.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on COVID, Madam President, quickly, this Chamber must also consider additional relief for the American economy and the American people suffering from the prolonged effects of COVID-19. Congress must pursue a bold and robust course of action to defeat the disease, recover our economy, and get our country back to normal. Again, our country requires bold and robust action.

A trio of economic news items this week has underlined the glaring needs in the country.

First, the Federal Reserve issued a sobering warning yesterday that the pace of economic recovery is weakening, and as a result, they decided to leave interest rates low.

Second, the unemployment report this morning reminded us that jobless claims are still extremely high—at or near 1 million per week. That is a lot larger than usual.

Third and maybe most astoundingly, most striking, the Bureau of Economic Analysis this morning revealed that last year, the economy shrank by 3.5 percent—the worst year for economic growth since World War II and the first time our economy has contracted since the great recession.

Given these economic numbers, the need to act big and bold is urgent. Given the fact that the GDP sunk by 3.5 percent last year, we need recovery and rescue quickly. Everywhere you look, alarm bells are ringing—mortgage deferrals are increasing, businesses are still closing, schools are closed in many States, restaurants and bars and travel are in crisis.

Our new Secretary of Treasury, Janet Yellen, who was days ago confirmed with the support of 84 Members of this body and a large majority of our Republican colleagues, just told us that “with interest rates at historic lows, the smartest thing we can do is act big.” That is what Yellen said. “[T]he smartest thing we can do is act big.”

Given these numbers, given the weakening state of the economy, only big, bold action is called for. To cut things dramatically at a time when the economy needs a boost would be irresponsible and hurt millions of people.

We are in the midst of a once-in-a-century crisis. It requires a once-in-a-century effort to overcome it. The dangers of undershooting our response are far greater than overshooting. We should learn the lesson from 2008 and 2009, when Congress was too timid and constrained in its response to the glob-

al financial crisis and it took years—years—for the economy to get out of recession. We must not repeat that mistake today.

So the Senate, as early as next week, will begin the process of considering a very strong COVID-relief bill. Our preference is to make this important work bipartisan, to include input, ideas, and revisions from our Republican colleagues or bipartisan efforts to do the same. But if our Republican colleagues decide to oppose this urgent and necessary legislation, we will have to move forward without it. We have a responsibility to help the American people fast, particularly given these new economic numbers. The Senate will begin that work next week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, normally, today and tomorrow, we would be welcoming many thousands of Americans to the Capitol for the annual March for Life. Every year, the march is one of the most important things that happens here in Washington. Americans of all ages, diverse backgrounds, and many faiths speak up peacefully and powerfully for the most fundamental human right. They make our Nation confront the fact that even the most modest protections for innocent life are still not secure.

The pandemic has taken this year's march online. That is a particular pity, given signs that the new administration may be poised to steamroll even the most limited—limited—safeguards for conscience, let alone for life itself.

The new Washington needs to hear the marchers more than ever. A case in point, the word is out our new administration is planning to rescind the Mexico City policy this very day, run over the consciences of American taxpayers, and put them back on the hook for funding abortions overseas. An administration that wanted to pursue unity might observe that 77 percent of Americans—including a majority of Democrats—and 85 percent of Independents don't want taxpayer dollars to fund foreign abortions.

This and many other commonsense pro-life policies enjoy broad support from the American people, but the

radicalism of the modern Democratic Party seems dug in. Fortunately, political dynamics change, but the moral truth does not. Executive orders can't alter the basic science of human life. So I thank my fellow Kentuckians and all Americans who are participating. We will see you in person next year.

BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on a totally different matter, the country has waited to see whether the new administration would follow a pro-job, pro-worker, pro-working family approach or give in to the far left and put ideological concerns before kitchen table ones. Unfortunately, we didn't have to wait long.

As recently as October, now-President Biden said: “You can't [legislate] by executive action unless you're a dictator.” Well, in 1 week, he signed more than 30 unilateral actions, and working Americans are getting short shrift.

The President abruptly canceled the Keystone Pipeline, a massive setback for energy security in North America. The Canadian leader called it “a gut punch.” I imagine the 11,000 American workers, including 8,000 union workers who were counting on that work, feel the same way.

We have headed back into an international pact that would have us self-inflict serious pain on working families, has failed to curb China's emissions, and without which our own emissions have been dropping anyway. And yesterday, the administration slammed the brakes on further domestic energy development on the huge swaths of land owned by the Federal Government: no new oil, gas, or coal leases on Federal land.

Our responsible use of these lands accounts for more than a fifth—one-fifth—of our domestic production, about 2.8 million barrels per day. That is almost the equivalent of Kuwait's daily oil production from our Federal lands alone; plus, more than 10 percent of domestic natural gas.

And 2019 marked the first time in nearly 70 years when U.S. energy exports outpaced imports. For the first time since the 1950s, our Nation ran an energy surplus, not a deficit. That has been great news, but some leftwing elites are not happy. The sources of this affordable domestic energy are not sufficiently trendy.

As John Kerry explained yesterday on behalf of the administration, he wants the large numbers of American workers in those sectors to find “better choices”—better choices than their good jobs that feed their families and strengthen our independence. Remember, with the pipeline cancellation, the President effectively closed the door on thousands of American jobs with the stroke of a pen.

According to one news report, one welder from Pipeliners Local 798, who had been working in Nebraska, says he has already had to lay off his whole

team before losing his job himself. He said he sat down in his truck and simply cried.

This latest new prohibition will replicate that heartbreak many times over. According to one study, the decision on Federal lands will leave us down nearly 1 million American jobs by next year alone—1 million lost jobs by next year alone.

It is a heck of a way to kick off a Presidency: mass layoffs of our own citizens, and working Americans in other sectors will pay as well. One analysis found this decision could increase household energy costs by almost \$20 billion over the next decade, and President Biden, John Kerry, and the whole gang appear to be just getting warmed up.

Mr. Kerry admitted yesterday that even if the United States somehow brought our carbon emissions to zero, it wouldn't make much difference in the global picture. That is because our competitors, including China, have already gone roaring past us.

But there is one kind of cooling these policies will achieve. They will ice the job market in communities all across America. In the State of New Mexico, 65 percent of oil and gas production is tied to Federal lands. By one estimate, 16,000 jobs will be on the chopping block in that State alone—that State alone—next year if President Biden's ban holds up.

In Colorado, it would cost another 3,000 jobs and more than 40 percent of the State's natural gas production.

As a Kentuckian, I am all too familiar with the way these Democratic policies can hurt communities. Kentucky paid dearly for the first round of these liberal policies under President Obama. We have no desire to be subjected to a sequel, especially when John Kerry says we should take the rate at which coal is already declining and quintuple it.

In her confirmation hearing yesterday, the President's nominee to be Energy Secretary referenced "jobs that might be sacrificed." Yeah, that is absolutely right. Well, she gets some points for honesty. That is what happened the last time these folks called the shots. Jobs were sacrificed, including, ultimately, some of the jobs of the Democratic politicians who backed these policies.

There is a concept in sports that a coach or a manager should never make a decision that will make the opposing team happy. If they are torn about a risky play call or if they are overthinking a pitching change, they should ask themselves which decision their opponents would rather see and do the opposite. Our new administration is failing that test on domestic energy.

China, Russia, and our other competitors must be thrilled, absolutely thrilled that our new government is essentially declaring war on some of our own economic foundations to satisfy a craving for symbolic gestures—will-

fully throwing our own people out of work, reducing our domestic energy security, raising costs and prices for working families—all for no meaningful impact on global temperatures, just to buy applause at those international conferences, where the participants all assemble by private jet.

It shouldn't be this way, not with a President who campaigned on protecting the lunch-pail union jobs that his left flank wants to eliminate. The President was not elected to enact policies that prompt a certain young Congresswoman from New York City to boast online that her radical ideas are shaping his energy policies. The last 4 years proved that growing our prosperity, reducing emissions, and expanding domestic energy are actually not in tension. We can achieve all three.

There is nothing green about a tsunami of pink slips for American workers or carting Canadian crude around in trucks and trains instead of a pipeline. This piecemeal Green New Deal is the wrong prescription, wrong for the environment, wrong for national security, and most of all for the working Americans who will soon be formerly working Americans if this keeps up.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this morning as I came to work in the Capitol, I saw our National Guard troops outside. I wanted to thank them, again, on behalf of the Senate and the people of America for coming to our assistance during the inauguration ceremonies. Some are still on the job, making sure that we maintain order in the streets of Washington, DC, and that we conduct the business of the American people here in the Capitol Building.

I want to thank them again, particularly the 270 National Guard forces from my State of Illinois—I had a chance to meet many of them—sacrificing time away from their families to serve their Nation. It was a job well done.

For those who continue to do the work, we stand by you, and we thank you again.

Heather Cox Richardson does a column each day that is really a source of information that is important. She reminded us in her column this morning

about what happened here in this Capitol Building just 3 weeks ago on January 6. Let me read what she said:

In testimony yesterday, the acting chief of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington told the House Appropriations Committee that at least 65 officers filed reports of injury after the January 6 attack. The chair of the Capitol Police officers' union . . . put the number closer to 140. "I have officers who were not issued helmets prior to the attack [and] who have sustained brain injuries. One officer has two cracked ribs and two smashed spinal discs. One officer is going to lose his eye, and another was stabbed with a metal fence stake," he said. One officer died of injuries sustained on January 6. Two officers have since taken their own lives.

I want to put that in the RECORD because in a week, beginning with the impeachment trial, we are going to reflect, again, on what happened January 6.

Some of my colleagues, and many people on their side, are saying we shouldn't spend time talking about what happened on January 6. In the words of the former Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, we ought to "get over it"—"get over it." It is hard to get over it when you consider the facts that I just read into the RECORD. For the families of those officers who lost their lives and those who were seriously injured, they won't get over it for a long, long time.

I don't know what the impeachment trial will find in terms of the role of the former President of the United States, but I believe it is an important milestone in America's history for us to stop and recount what actually happened in this building on January 6, where a mob, incited by the President, stormed this Capitol, broke through, smashing windows and doors, and literally took control of this Capitol Building for several hours. Here in the Senate Chamber, we were evacuated. Thank goodness, we returned that same evening to complete our business and complete our work.

There is ample evidence of what happened that day by video, photographs, and testimony. I hope it is part of the record in this impeachment hearing so that this generation and future generations will have no doubt what happened that day.

Already, we have those who are in denial, who are arguing that this was really some far-left group that was taking over the demonstration—a ludicrous argument on its face. And we have many who are in complete denial that it happened or that it had anything to do with rightwing politics. They are wrong. We saw it. We recorded it. We are going to put it, in part, as part of the record so that America knows what happened on that day.

Yesterday, we got a warning that this may not be the end of it, that there may be more activity. Let me say at the outset that I condemn extremism and violence on any part of the political spectrum. But yesterday, the

warning was to the right, who apparently are going to continue in their efforts to disrupt life in America and endanger the lives of fellow Americans and law enforcement officers.

We need to stand up as a nation and say, "Enough." Whatever your political strife, there is no room for extremism and violence in the exercise of a constitutional responsibility or right.

I wanted to make that as part of the RECORD as an opening statement.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, now, on another issue, this morning, I went on a radio show in Bloomington-Normal, IL, WJBC, Scott Miller. The topic de jour—no surprise—was the vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccines, and why so many people in that part of Central Illinois can't get access to vaccinations.

I listened to the frustration of people who called in to the announcer about waiting on the phone for hours, trying to get through, unable to make an appointment, and I called the Governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker, to ask him what was happening. He gave me some numbers in our part of the world, which probably reflect our country's status at the moment.

He said that we were receiving 120,000 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine each week—120,000 a week. We have approximately 10 million people eligible to be vaccinated in Illinois. Those under the age of 16 are excluded for reasons determined by medical professionals, so we start with 10 million. We anticipate that at least 50 percent are currently hoping to get a vaccine as quickly as a possible. So we have to get 5 million people vaccinated in our State with two doses. There are 10 million doses, and we are receiving 120,000 a week. Is it any wonder that the new President, Joe Biden, has spoken up that we need to obtain as quickly as possible new sources of COVID-19 vaccine in large numbers? I support that completely.

As part of his request for the American Rescue Plan, which has come before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, in that request he spells out what he thinks are the priorities in this country, and I believe he is correct.

We talk about \$160 billion to provide the supplies, emergency response, testing, and workforce for our country to stop the spread of COVID-19. Could there be any higher priority?

There is \$170 billion for schools and higher education so they can safely reopen and operate. Any parent or grandparent knows how urgent that need is.

There is \$80 billion for paid leave. It includes 14 weeks of paid family medical leave through the end of September. Certainly, people need to have that option available either because of their own illness or an illness in the family.

Direct payments—already \$600 has gone out to many families in direct payments. Another \$1,400 per person

has been promised. That is included in the Biden proposal.

Unemployment insurance—we still are finding record numbers of people who are filing for unemployment; \$290 billion extends the current benefits and eligibility and a \$400 supplement per week until the end of September. Rental assistance, SNAP benefits, childcare, relief to families, such as the child tax credit—the list is lengthy, and I have read through it carefully.

Should we do it? There are some who argue: No, we don't need more stimulus. We have done all we need to do.

I have to disagree with that conclusion. The news this morning that was alluded to by the Democratic leader suggests that we are not out of the woods by a long shot when it comes to the state of the economy.

CNN reported this morning that the Donald Trump final economic report card could be very underwhelming.

[For example,] the U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic activity, is forecast to have grown at an annualized rate of 4% between October and December [of last year].

In a normal year, that would be [cause for celebration]—an A+. . . . But 2020 was no normal year.

America is still recovering from the worst economic shock in living memory. [Our gross domestic product] shrank [by] a record 31.4% on an annualized basis in the second quarter. . . . [I]t came screaming back at a 33.4% annualized pace in the third quarter, [but] that wasn't . . . enough to make up for the damage [that was] already done.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD with my statement.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From CNN, Jan. 27, 2021]

DONALD TRUMP'S FINAL ECONOMIC REPORT CARD COULD BE VERY UNDERWHELMING

(By Anneken Tappe)

NEW YORK—Economists are grading on a curve. That's not a good thing if you're former President Donald Trump.

US gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic activity, is forecast to have grown at an annualized rate of 4% between October and December.

In a normal year, that would be something to celebrate—an A+ for Trump's final economic report card. But 2020 was no normal year.

America is still recovering from the worst economic shock in living memory. GDP shrank a record 31.4% on an annualized basis in the second quarter. Though it came screaming back at a record 33.4% annualized pace in the third quarter, that wasn't nearly enough to make up for the damage already done.

So if 33.4% isn't good enough, 4% sure ain't gonna cut it, either. It would get the nation only a small part of the way back to its pre-pandemic strength—underscoring just how far we still have to go.

It also doesn't bode well for the recovery in 2021. The US economy's recovery took a hit in the last quarter of 2020 as Covid-19 infections spiked and various states reintroduced lockdown measures.

A BAD SIGN FOR 2021

President Joe Biden inherited an ailing recovery and a broken jobs market. The new

administration will need an all-hands-on-deck approach to get the economy back on track this year after the pandemic slammed on the breaks.

Rising infections and renewed restrictions on people and businesses put a damper on hopes for the recovery in the winter months.

The first quarter of 2021 "is likely to be even weaker with little reason to expect a sudden upswing in activity until Covid restrictions are meaningfully eased," said James Knightley, chief international economist at ING, even with more help for the unemployed in place.

Biden will need to bring the pandemic under control first to get the recovery on the right path.

WHAT'S HOLDING THE ECONOMY BACK?

Economists have been concerned about the state of the recovery for a while. Rising infections in the fall and a renewed increase in weekly claims for jobless benefits pointed to another rough patch for the economy in the winter.

On the consumer and spending front, retail sales logged three straight months without any growth between October and December as big shopping events like Black Friday and Christmas failed to provide an adequate boost. And the University of Michigan's survey-based consumer sentiment index remained still far below its pre-pandemic level and declined again after its most recent peak in October.

Millions of Americans remain unemployed because of the crisis, and in December, the economy shed 140,000 jobs—a major setback for the recovery. It was the first net job loss since April.

The US economy runs on consumer spending and for as long as Americans don't spend the way they used to—be it because of unemployment, lockdowns or plain caution—it will keep the recovery pace slow.

The rollout of vaccines and ultimate control of the virus is what will truly transport the economy back to its pre-pandemic strength, economists believe. But only about 23.5 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States so far.

Meanwhile, those who lost their jobs or had their hours or pay reduced because of the pandemic still require help from the government.

Trump signed a second stimulus package into law in December, which extended various programs to continue helping the jobless. But many economists believe the delay in getting more measures passed hurt the pace of the recovery.

President Biden's economic agenda includes more stimulus still, but whether his \$1.9 trillion plan will get passed in its original form remains to be seen.

Mr. DURBIN. The statistics are devastating, as well, when it comes to the number of people filing for unemployment—recordbreaking numbers—and those are included in this article as well.

So we are counseled by the new Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, approved by this body, that we shouldn't take our foot off the accelerator for fear that this economy will bog down again. Businesses will find it difficult to survive—even open—and their employees, of course, will be without work. We need to get this economy roaring back, and that means making the investment that President Biden is asking for.

Similarly, we need to get our kids back in school. I know most parents would feel that is true, grandparents as

well. And the sooner we do it, the better, but do it safely—safely for the teachers, administrators, and everyone involved in that decision.

It is hard to imagine what we have been through in the last calendar year, the year 2020. I am glad it is behind us.

We will still have many challenges ahead, but it is hard to believe that just 1 year ago this week, in the State of Illinois, we confirmed our first case of coronavirus—1 year ago. A patient had returned from China to suburban Chicago and transmitted the virus to her husband. She was treated successfully, as was her husband.

But in the 365 days since then that transpired, 1.1 million COVID-19 cases occurred in my State of Illinois—from one person a year ago, 1.1 million cases—and almost 19,000 Illinoisans have died. The story is repeated in every State and every community. What started as a worry ended up becoming a pandemic and one of the deadliest in American history.

Last year, I came to the floor to ask unanimous consent for a resolution with a simple message, that the United States should work with other nations around the world to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It seemed like a commonsense proposition. To think that one case in Wuhan, China, has led us to where we are today tells us that this is a shrinking world.

We need to tackle that deadly communicable disease because it knows no boundaries. No nation is safe from COVID-19 if it is raging in any part of the world. Equally, no nation's economy is immune from the impacts of the pandemic raging elsewhere.

I am glad the Senate eventually passed the resolution that I introduced, affirming the need to join with others in fighting the pandemic.

Now, the first priority is obvious: Take care of the American people and American families and everyone who lives in our Nation. That is the first and highest priority for our elected officials at every single level.

We are now debating a measure to help the American people gain access to vaccines—the Biden rescue plan—and the harsh economic impact it has had on America. President Biden understands the immediacy of these needs, and I hope that we in Congress do as well.

As we respond to the COVID-19 crisis in America, though, we cannot ignore the need for a global response. This isn't a matter of being charitable. It is in our national interest and a reflection of our values to ensure that poorer nations have access to vaccines and tools to manage their impact.

The New York Times columnist Nick Kristof chronicled this problem in a powerful piece earlier this month, entitled "Starving Children Don't Cry." He noted that while some developing countries may have avoided high COVID death tolls, the pandemic has led, in many places, to what he calls "pandemics of hunger, disease and il-

literacy." Day laborers can't find work. Campaigns to address malaria, polio, AIDS, and malnutrition have been disrupted. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of children in the developing world will die from malnutrition. Many who survive will face lifetimes of disabilities.

A study by the International Chamber of Commerce found that the global cost of unequal global vaccine distribution will hit affluent countries almost as hard as developing countries.

The study showed what would happen if wealthy nations were fully vaccinated by the middle of the year but poor countries shut out, a likely scenario.

This week, the World Health Organization noted that only 1 of 29 low-income countries has begun vaccination, and in that particular country of Guinea, only 55 out of 12 million people have been reached.

The study concluded that the global economy could lose more than \$9 trillion, with nearly half of those costs absorbed by the United States and other wealthy countries.

We are already seeing how illness in poor nations affects us. U.S. exports have plunged by nearly 28 percent in the last 6 months, resulting in lost jobs here, lower profits, and lower wages.

So that is why I am reintroducing legislation to direct the U.S. Treasury to use its vote at the International Monetary Fund to release what are known as special drawing rights. These are foreign exchange reserve assets maintained by the IMF that can be used by developing nations during severe economic downturns, as done during the 2008 global financial crisis.

A release of these special drawing rights would not cost American taxpayers a single dollar, but they would help developing nations purchase and distribute COVID vaccines and stem the pandemic's economic impact overseas.

This proposal is supported by a broad coalition, including American farm leaders, business leaders, and trade associations, leading economists, faith groups, labor unions, and humanitarian groups.

I want to thank my cosponsors in this effort: Senators SANDERS, CARDIN, REED, MERKLEY, and LEAHY. We are joined in the House by my colleague from Illinois, Congressman CHUY GARCÍA.

Three-quarters of a century ago, much of the world lay in ruins as a result of a global war. The United States made an unprecedented commitment to help the nations of the world rise from the ashes of World War II and rebuild. We did so because it was in keeping with our moral beliefs and it served our political and economic interests.

The Marshall Plan and other international aid efforts by the United States helped make America the most powerful Nation on Earth, politically and economically. This global crisis, COVID-19, gives us another oppor-

tunity to strengthen America as we help repair a damaged world.

Of course, our first priority is American families, and this effort would not take a single dollar away from buying the vaccines that are necessary to keep our Nation safe. But by using these special drawing rights, we provide resources to some of the poorest nations around the world so that they, too, can start vaccinating their population.

This world got sick, we believe, because of one person in China, and it spread around the world. That is, at least, the theory that has been backed up by evidence so far. So let's make certain that, as we address this issue, we do it on a global basis.

I urge the Senate to support this measure as a way to not only do the right thing for our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world but as a way to help our own pandemic and economic recovery.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF PETER PAUL MONTGOMERY BUTTIGIEG

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday I voted to advance out of committee President Biden's nomination of Pete Buttigieg as head of the Department of Transportation, and the full Senate will soon vote to confirm him.

I had a good meeting and discussion with Mr. Buttigieg last week. We talked about a number of South Dakota transportation priorities.

Our Nation is due for another major infrastructure bill, and I asked Mr. Buttigieg to commit to maintaining strong investments in rural highway funding and other rural transportation priorities as part of any infrastructure legislation. A strong rural transportation infrastructure benefits the entire national transportation system by connecting major highways and railways to the regions that produce so many of the agricultural and industrial products that we rely on. It is key to helping South Dakota farmers and ranchers and farmers and ranchers around the country get their products to market.

I also asked Mr. Buttigieg to work with me to improve Tribal transportation infrastructure. Right now, prosperous Tribes in populous areas receive a disproportionate amount of Tribal transportation funding, even though their needs are often less pressing than those facing large rural Tribes, like those in South Dakota. I am committed to ensuring that rural Tribes get their fair share of Tribal transportation funding, and I was pleased that

Mr. Buttigieg agreed to work with me on this issue.

I also enjoyed discussing autonomous vehicle legislation with him. He shares my interest in the technological, environmental, and safety benefits self-driving vehicles can offer, and I look forward to working with him on this issue.

Highway bills have always been a place for bipartisan cooperation, and the bill released last Congress by Senators BARRASSO and CARPER was no exception. I hope that bipartisan tradition will continue in this Congress and that Democrats and Republicans can work together to deliver a significant infrastructure package in the near future.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, on the subject of bipartisanship, I am disturbed by the rumors that Democrats plan to use reconciliation to force another COVID bill through Congress on partisan lines before even giving good-faith effort to bipartisan negotiations.

Republicans are more than willing to work with Democrats on additional targeted COVID relief legislation.

Now, I won't pretend that we don't have reservations about some of the measures that Democrats have proposed. For instance, I don't think an emergency COVID relief bill is the place to push through a change that would more than double the Federal minimum wage and directly increase expenses on businesses that have been decimated by the pandemic. That is a policy with a lot of economic consequences, and it shouldn't be pushed through Congress in a hasty fashion.

Republicans are also concerned about the enormous amount of money that Democrats want to spend. We have already spent more than \$4 trillion to address this pandemic, and we need to be very careful—very careful—about additional spending and appropriate only what is necessary to respond to this pandemic and with an eye to the burden that we are putting on the economy and on young Americans as we increase our national debt.

The higher our national debt, the greater the drag on economic growth and the more likely it is that young Americans will face increasingly burdensome tax bills in the future to meet our debt obligations.

But let me be very clear. While Republicans certainly have concerns about some of the Democrats' proposals, we are committed to defeating this pandemic and to getting Americans vaccinated, and we are ready to work with Democrats on any necessary COVID relief legislation that would achieve that objective.

It would be very disappointing if Democrats decided to shove a partisan bill through Congress without even attempting to work with Republicans.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I close, I want to take a moment to recognize those South Dakotans participating in the virtual March for Life tomorrow.

We have gotten used to saying "it is going to be a little different this year" during the pandemic, and that applies to the March for Life as well. Usually, tens of thousands of Americans travel to Washington, DC, every January to participate in the march—Americans from every State in the union, of every political persuasion, of every religion or none at all—all united by their commitment to defending the dignity and value and humanity of the unborn child.

This year the march will be virtual, but pro-life Americans will still be united in spirit. To all of those South Dakotans virtually marching tomorrow and to all those Americans everywhere united in the pro-life cause, thank you. Thank you for standing—standing up every year on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

Most of all, thank you for everything that you do throughout the year, because the biggest work of the pro-life movement happens outside of the March for Life. It happens in churches around America, where congregations collect money to support prenatal care for pregnant women in need or gather diapers and baby supplies to give to struggling mothers. It happens on college campuses, where pro-life students educate their peers about the reality of abortion. It happens in crisis pregnancy centers, where moms and dads facing unplanned pregnancies are met with resources and love and support. It happens at maternity homes, where single moms get the support they need to have their babies and to build job skills or get an education.

Every day, you are building a culture of life in this country with your work and your political action and your prayers. I know that is not always easy, but the race is not to the swift nor the strong. It is to those who endure, and I am confident that, sooner or later, right and justice will prevail because we have the truth on our side—the truth that every human being, no matter how old or how young, no matter the race or the color of their skin, no matter their religion or political persuasion, is created in the image and likeness of God and has infinite dignity and worth.

So keep standing up for the babies, and tomorrow I will be joining my prayers with yours that one day soon the right to life of unborn human beings will be protected in law.

May God bless you all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, our Nation was founded on an incredibly powerful and truly audacious idea. The idea was that every single human being was created equal, with rights that come from your Creator, from God—not from the government, not from the laws, not even from the Constitution or your leaders. You are born with those rights. Inherent in that is our powerful national commitment that I think remains to this day, the belief that everyone should have freedom and that everyone—because freedom comes with those rights—and that everyone be treated fairly.

For 244 years, our story has been that of a nation on a continuous and a steady march to live up to those ideals. Tomorrow, thousands will come to Washington once again for a different march but one that I believe is tied directly to this Nation's ongoing quest to fulfill the promise of its founding.

Almost half a century ago, the Supreme Court of the United States decided that within our Constitution, there was the implicit right to end the life of an unborn child. Since then, every single day in this country, unborn human beings have had their life ended before they even drew their first breath. They are, in essence, denied the freedom to live, not because they did anything wrong; they are denied this most basic of rights unfairly because of circumstances they have nothing to do with and do not control.

That this occurs here is shameful enough, and I believe that is how history will regard it; that we use taxpayer money to promote it and export it abroad is outrageous.

Before we even passed a bill to deal with the pandemic or to bring back good jobs to the United States or any of the other major issues confronting our country, in one of his first acts as President, President Biden decided to prioritize tearing up the so-called Mexico City policy—a policy that rightfully bans our taxpayer dollars from being sent to organizations that use them to perform or promote abortions overseas.

Abortion is a very difficult and uncomfortable topic. No one can pretend that if some 15-year-old girl is pregnant and afraid—afraid of her parents, afraid of what others might think, afraid for her future—that she faces an easy choice. It is not.

It doesn't feel fair, it doesn't feel like freedom to have laws that tell people what they can or cannot do with their body, but in this case, the challenge we have is that it is a case that puts the fundamental rights of two people into direct conflict—the right, as most definitely exists, of a mother to choose what to do with her body versus the right of an unborn child to live. It

forces us to decide which one of these two rights wins out in those circumstances.

I personally, for one, and those who march tomorrow have chosen life—not because it is an easy choice but because, to me, it is a clear one because the right to live is the one right upon which all the other rights we claim depend. Without life, there is no speech to protect, and there is no religion to practice. Without life, frankly, nothing else matters.

I would point out that being pro-life is not just about the right to be born; it also means the right to live and to thrive. Once a child is born, that child depends on their parents or whoever their guardians are who are raising them, and they have a moral and legal duty to care for them—not just to feed them, not just to clothe them, not just to house them, but also to promote a safe and stable home and the chance at a good education and a better future.

That is why I deeply believe that pro-life must also mean being pro-parent. Being a parent is the most influential role anyone will ever have. It is the most important job any of us will ever have. That is why I worked to and we were successful in expanding the child tax credit 2 years ago. That is why I stand ready now to work with President Biden to expand it even further.

I am concerned about some of the details of the policies he has outlined. For example, his proposal appears to unfairly benefit parents who send their children to commercial childcare over stay-at-home parents or grandparents or other caregivers. But this is an area where we have a common goal and one where I believe we can find a way to work together.

It is also why I support creating the opportunity for every parent in America to have access to paid family leave, because no one should be thrown into welfare or debt or bankruptcy because they got pregnant, because they had a child.

It is also, by the way, why I support school choice. In America, rich parents can afford to send their kids to any school they want, and they do. Upper middle class parents can move to neighborhoods with good public schools. But it is unfair that the only parents in America who are forced to send their children to the school the government tells them—even if that school is failing their children—are the parents who don't make enough money to have another option.

For 21st-century America to move closer to fulfilling our founding principle of equality, of freedom, of fairness, every child deserves the right not just to be born but also the right to live and to thrive, the right not just to exist but the right to pursue and fulfill their potential.

I believe that what is at stake is nothing less than our identity as a nation. If we become a place where your right to be born and your ability to succeed is determined by who your par-

ents are or by the circumstances of your conception, then we may remain, indeed, a rich and a powerful and an important country, but we will no longer be a special one.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, it is nice to see you in the Chair, Mr. President. I haven't seen that for a while. Congratulations to you.

I feel like yesterday I was in the movie "Back to the Future." I rise today to voice my deep concern with the lengthy Executive order that President Biden issued yesterday pertaining to climate, and my larger concerns about where the Biden administration is moving with regard to their energy and environment agenda.

President Biden, very passionately, as we sat out on the steps, called for unity in his January 20 inauguration speech. But as his first actions, President Biden managed to kill thousands of jobs and paralyze America's industry—the energy industry.

His order yesterday put a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on Federal lands. This is an economic, energy, and national security disaster, in my view. This order moves America from energy independence back to relying on foreign sources for fuel—and a lot of times these are the countries that have much more lax environmental policies than we have right here in the United States.

The order also usurps our States' rights—the States' rights which are to manage their own energy industries.

As you know, I come from an energy-producing State. We have a proud heritage of that. So what about the States that rely on tax revenues from the energy industry to fund education? We see what has happened with education now under the pandemic. More headwinds into how do we deliver a great education product is a question we are going to be answering over the next several months and years. So any ideas?

I wonder if President Biden actually talked to any of the Governors of these States to see what the impact of what he was doing might have.

But what we saw yesterday in the press conference was President Biden and Gina McCarthy and John Kerry's ultimate goal, which is to ban fossil fuels. They were pretty upfront about that.

So my skepticism, when I hear that the administration is going to give industry time to transition and give workers a clean energy job—that is

where I found myself thinking: I am in "Back to the Future." I have heard this before because I vividly remember the empty promises of the past.

This is a deeply personal issue for me because I have lived through this. I have seen this playbook before. So we are back to the future.

The Obama administration said the very same things to West Virginians. In fact, I remember the same people saying the same things, and I remember the utterly unachievable regulatory requirements that Gina McCarthy created in her position as head of the EPA that decimated my State.

I remember the thousands of jobs lost—and still lost—and the hopelessness and then the succeeding opioid epidemic that followed.

I remember begging the Obama EPA to come to West Virginia to see how the regulations, with no time to transition, were destroying more of our State's economy. They were destroying our families. They really didn't seem to care. The only response I got in one of my hearings was, well, they will come to Pittsburgh. Well, that is not coming to West Virginia.

Look, I am not here to just put down the Biden administration. I want to work with the administration, and I am going to be in a position to do that as ranking member on EPW. I want to be a part of the solution. I am not a climate denier. We all need to take care of our planet. We must be good stewards of our Earth, of our water. We know it is the right thing to do.

The free market is already moving in that direction, which was part of the presentation yesterday. Private companies are cutting their emissions. That is awesome. And as we see the emission figures, they have gone way down over the last 15 years.

Consumers moving toward greener products? That is great. I find myself doing that in my everyday living, and it is great. I feel like, in some ways, I am doing my small part at home.

But a national energy transition really needs time, and the Biden administration needs to be very clear about what their timetables really are.

They also need to be very clear about who is really in charge here. This is another one of my concerns. President Biden's nominees—Michael Regan; Jennifer Granholm; Brenda Mallory, at CEQ. Janet McCabe; and even Pete Buttigieg—have all been tasked with addressing climate. They are going to be tripping all over each other, before you even consider those avoiding Senate confirmation, process all of this together—McCarthy, Kerry, and a whole host of other czars who aren't accountable to Congress. So who is really going to be making the decisions? I think, from yesterday's press conference, it is pretty clear what the answer to that question could probably be.

Will this Cabinet actually wield any power or will the decisions be made in the White House in an effort to avoid public and congressional scrutiny?

The American people really need to know. West Virginians need to know. New Jerseyans need to know. I will definitely be asking those questions in the upcoming hearing.

In closing, I would just like to say that America is a great and very proud energy producer. West Virginia has powered the country for decades, and we are incredibly proud of that fact. Coal, natural gas, oil, solar, wind, nuclear, biomass—our country has been incredibly blessed with energy resources, and using all of them keeps Americans safe and keeps our country running.

Eliminating fossil fuels from our energy mix will lead to higher utility costs and less reliability. So whom does that really hurt? It hurts those in the lower and mid-income category—the ones that are hurting right now because of this pandemic. And you can just ask California about the rising cost and the rise in unreliability of the grid.

Renewables can't power our country at 100 percent all the time right now. Maybe in the future, but right now they can't, and battery technology hasn't been able to fill that gap.

But we can address climate change together through innovation and technology. We already have new markets for coal and carbon products. We know investing in carbon capture and utilization and storage is critical. For a lot of reasons it is a win-win on both sides. We know new technologies are progressing every single day, and we have been working on this issue in a bipartisan way. Senator WHITEHOUSE and I were the main proponents of the 45Q credit for capturing carbon and reusing it.

But I am very concerned that President Biden's Executive order yesterday really alienated some of the key players in the conversation, and I don't think that is the way to build unity. Here we go—back to the future, picking winners and losers. That is pitting American jobs against one and the other, and that can create and will create resentment across the country.

So I urge the President—let's tackle these climate challenges together, not through overreaching Presidential orders and Federal regulations. This country has risen to every single challenge that we have had. This climate challenge is no different. I understand the urgency. I understand the issue. But with our American ingenuity, we can find these solutions together.

So let's make our future one that we build together.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it has been more than a year now since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed here in the United States. As the war against this virus has been fought, it has evolved over the last 12 months, and our country has been challenged like never before in my memory.

Healthcare workers across the country have heroically battled this cruel virus, often with insufficient equipment and personnel. Frontline workers in delivery trucks, grocery stores, and other essential businesses have kept the cogs of society running.

As a whole, we have hunkered down and tried to stop the spread of the virus until enough Americans could get vaccinated. We all have come to realize that is really the gold standard in defeating this virus. The Trump administration launched Operation Warp Speed to accelerate the research and development of therapeutics and vaccines to move us toward that goal as soon as possible.

Just last summer, when President Trump predicted we would have an effective vaccine by the end of the year, there was some serious skepticism—and you might even call it blowback—from some of the critics. One media outlet published a fact check saying it would require nothing short of a “medical miracle” to have a vaccine by the end of last year.

Thanks to the leadership on a bipartisan basis here and the marvels of science and human ingenuity, that so-called miracle came true not once but twice, and we are expecting more vaccines to eventually be approved in the near term. The world's brightest scientific minds used the foundation built by decades of vaccine research to craft lifesaving and, in fact, world-changing vaccines.

Less than 11 months after the first COVID-19 case was discovered in the United States, the very first vaccine was administered after it was approved—11 months. The number of Americans who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 is growing every day, and so far, more than 24.5 million doses have been administered nationwide.

Nearly 2 million of those doses have gone into the arms of my fellow Texans. Texas became the first State to administer 1 million doses—an accomplishment that underscores the hard work of our State and local leaders and our public health officials, our private partners and healthcare workers.

Every day, our public health experts are evaluating the current distribution process to make improvements and speed up the vaccination process. The State has now set up mass vaccination hubs to expedite distribution and administer as many doses as they can as quickly as they can.

While these sites are an efficient way to administer vaccines to Texans, we need to do more in rural parts of the country. I was glad to see in my State Governor Abbott's announcement that

the State is launching a mobile vaccine pilot program to ramp up vaccination efforts in rural parts of the State. Those vaccinations kick off today, and with the support of our incredible Texas National Guardsmen, more at-risk Texans will be vaccinated against this virus.

With currently two approved vaccines and potentially more on the way, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it is getting bigger and brighter every day. But we can't take our foot off the gas—we all know that. Just as we led an aggressive effort to develop vaccines, it is time to redouble our efforts to distribute those vaccines.

I worry we are not starting off on a strong footing. In December, President-Elect Biden announced his administration's goals to get 100 million shots in the arms of Americans within the first 100 days of his Presidency. That announcement came about a week before the first doses of the vaccine were distributed—before we had a real-world test of the processes that had been in planning for months.

We are now several weeks into this nationwide vaccination campaign, and the Biden administration has stuck by this initial benchmark. The President has repeatedly described this as an “ambitious goal”—a statement that has led to a fair amount of head-scratching, not because it is too aggressive, as some people thought President Trump's proposed vaccine delivery date was, but because it is too modest.

One physician and public health expert described this as “a disappointingly low bar.” An Associated Press headline evaluated the situation pretty well when it said: “Biden's early approach to virus: Underpromise, over-deliver.”

The truth is, we were largely on track to meet President Biden's ambitious goal even before he took the oath of office. On Inauguration Day, more than 1.6 million doses had been administered, and over the last week, the average number of vaccinations has exceeded 1.5 million a day. It is hard to really frame this as a goal when in reality you could throw the entire operation on cruise control and surpass it.

On Monday evening, President Biden appeared to up the target to 150 million doses in the first 100 days, which would track with the 1.5 million doses we are currently seeing administered. But the White House Press Secretary walked back that claim the following day.

One hundred million doses in 100 days is certainly catchy, and I have no doubt the administration has tried to underpromise so it can be seen as over-delivering. That is not altogether a bad strategy. But the goal here is not to set a target you are almost certain to meet. After all, we didn't see the previous administration set a target of a successful vaccine by the summer of 2021, which is what many experts believed to be the most feasible. So I

would urge the administration and all of us to accede to a truly ambitious vaccination schedule and motivate the newly assembled team at the White House to achieve it and to provide the resources that they may need from Congress in order for them to execute that plan. There is no reason to stick to a goal we were on track to meet before President Biden was even sworn in.

President Biden, of course, ran a campaign criticizing the previous administration's handling of the COVID-19 virus, and he campaigned on the promise to lead us out of that crisis. But this modest goal is not going to get us there fast enough.

Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston say we need to be vaccinating 3 million people a day. That is double the pace we are seeing right now and triple the Biden administration's self-described ambitious plan.

The past year has been full of scientific developments and bold action by Congress and the administration to develop and distribute vaccines to the American people. We simply can't afford to put it in cruise control now. Our only option is to mobilize every resource and to push as hard and as fast as we can to get the American people vaccinated and to finally bring an end to this pandemic.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

YEMEN

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this is a screen shot from a video taken during a school field trip on August 9, 2018. These are Yemeni schoolchildren going to school in a northern governorate inside the country, and they are on their way either to or back from a picnic that they were having with their classmates.

As you can see, they are schoolchildren of elementary age—around 8, 9, 10 years old. They don't look any different than what school children here in the United States would look like on their way to a fun-filled school field trip. There is a little boy catching a little nap somehow amidst all of the den of the rest of his classmates so excited.

They are excited because there isn't and there wasn't a lot of fun to be had for schoolchildren in Yemen today or in 2018. A civil war still plagues that country and plagues Yemeni children who are too often facing starvation and disease, but on this day, there was fun to be had.

This is that schoolbus hours later. Forty children died when a U.S.-made

bomb dropped from the sky and hit this schoolbus. Not every child on that bus died, miraculously, but 40 children on the bus and around the bus did. It was a war crime.

The Saudis, in the aftermath of the incident, defended it saying that it was a legal action. They were targeting enemy leaders who were responsible for recruiting and training young children.

They hit a schoolbus in the middle of the day, right next to a crowded marketplace. It wasn't on a lonely road. It was in a crowded area. It is why not only people on the bus died, but children and families surrounding the bus died as well.

This was a military strike done, in part, as part of a coalition campaign of which the United States is a member. It is not just that we sold the bomb that hit this bus. We participated and still do participate in this military campaign in a myriad of ways.

For years, we flew planes in the sky that put fuel into the Saudi and Emirati jets that dropped these bombs. We embedded U.S. personnel in the operations center that planned these bombing campaigns, and maybe, most importantly of all, we lent moral authority to the Saudi-led campaign inside Yemen.

But over the course of our time as a coalition partner with Saudi Arabia, the war in Yemen has been a national security apocalypse for the United States. Our bombs and our planes have been used to kill thousands of civilians; 17,000 civilians have died inside Yemen since the beginning of this war.

The war has caused the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe on the ground inside Yemen. Over 100,000 children have died of starvation and disease. Yemen, since 2015, has been the site of the world's worst cholera outbreak anywhere in the world during all of our lifetimes—likely caused by the targeting of water treatment facilities by the coalition, of which the United States is a member.

And inside this country, Yemenis rightfully blame the United States for this cataclysm. They know that it is our equipment, they know that it is our bombs, and they know that it is that moral authority that the United States gives to this war through our decision to continue to take part in it, human rights crime after human rights crime.

It has radicalized a generation of Yemenis against the United States. It has made us part and parcel of repeated human rights violations, and it has created a chaotic environment on the ground in Yemen that has allowed for AQAP, the wing of al-Qaida with the clearest designs to hit the United States, again, room to govern and room to grow. AQAP and ISIS are able to operate and control territory inside Yemen because of the chaos created by this civil war.

Iran has grown stronger. At the beginning, Iran and the Houthis, who are on the other side of this civil war, had

a slightly tenuous connection, but as the war has dragged on, the Houthis have had to become more and more reliant on Iranian assistance and Iranian expertise. Iran has grown stronger and stronger inside Yemen and inside the region as this war persists. In every way, it has been a nightmare, from a security perspective, for the United States.

But with the election and inauguration of President Biden, our participation in this national security cataclysm is coming to an end. I come to the floor today to thank the Biden administration and to thank the incoming Secretary of State, Tony Blinken, for their recognition that it is no longer in our security interest to be a part of this.

The Biden administration has made several very important decisions that they have announced at the outset of their term in office: one, the plan to withdraw from the military coalition; second, a decision to suspend arm sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, who are the primary participants in this coalition. UAE has dramatically scaled back their involvement—to their credit. The Saudis continue to fight this war on the ground and in the air.

And lastly—and, perhaps, most immediately importantly—the Trump administration announced that they were reserving an eleventh-hour decision by the Trump administration naming the Houthis a terrorist group.

Now, the Houthis are incredibly bad actors. The Houthis are also guilty of war crimes in and around this conflict. They recruit child soldiers. They deliberately hold up aid and don't allow it to get to the citizens in areas under which they control. The Houthis have a lot to answer for as well. But by naming them a terrorist group, what the Trump administration effectively did was to stop the international aid community from being able to deliver any aid into Yemen because the Houthis control some of the most important ports, and 80 percent of the aid is commercial food. That would have all stopped if you couldn't run aid through ports controlled by an organization named at the eleventh hour by the Trump administration as a terrorist organization.

The Biden administration has made a decision to suspend that designation to make sure that we are not going to end up with millions of people starving inside Yemen because the United States makes the decision to eliminate the ability of humanitarian groups to get food on the ground in Yemen. They are all incredibly important decisions that the administration has made—decisions supported by a majority of this body.

We have voted here in the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, to end the U.S. participation in the war in Yemen. We didn't have a veto-proof majority. So we couldn't overcome the President's veto. But there is a bipartisan coalition that believes the United States

shouldn't have anything to do with this, and President Biden is now effectuating that bipartisan consensus in policy.

Lastly, let me say this. Saudi Arabia is an important security partner for the United States. The UAE is an important security partner for the United States. We have an important counterterrorism relationship. The Saudis and the Emirates have been part of this groundbreaking detente with Israel, resulting in several recognition agreements. That is great for U.S. security interests in the region. But it is time for us to reset those relationships to make clear that if our Gulf partners are going to participate in actions inside the region that are terrible for our security interests, then we can't join them in those actions—a reset that includes an expectation that the Saudis and the Emirates address what is a very disturbing downward trend in the ability of individuals inside those countries to have political space with which to contest grievances with the regimes.

It is time for us to make sure that our relationships with our Gulf allies are always consistent with U.S. national security endeavors, and the Biden administration is off to a very good start in resetting those relationships by pulling ourselves out of a war inside Yemen that has killed 17,000 civilians, caused 100,000 kids to die of starvation and disease, and ends up with our bombs doing this to a school bus full of 8-, 9-, and 10-year-olds.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the Senate is considering the nomination of Mr. Mayorkas to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security. I come to the floor at this point, before we vote on that motion today, to raise questions about whether or not he should be in that position as Secretary of Homeland Security and the fact that I will be voting negative.

I am familiar with Mr. Mayorkas from my past oversight of the EB-5 investment visa program. From 2009 until 2013, Mr. Mayorkas served as Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which administers that EB-5 visa program.

During that time, more than 15 whistleblowers approached my office to raise questions about Mr. Mayorkas and his management of the EB-5 program. The whistleblowers allege that Mr. Mayorkas was intervening in routine and technical matters that were not typically handled by the Director of that Division. They also alleged that he was doing so at the request of well-connected Democratic politicians and other politically connected stakeholders.

As my colleagues are aware, I have long criticized the fraud and abuse that

are rampant in the EB-5 program, and I have continually reintroduced bipartisan legislation with Senator LEAHY to reform the program. So it shouldn't be a surprise to any of my colleagues that when I hear from 15 different whistleblowers anything about the EB-5 program, I would further investigate it.

I have also conducted consistent oversight of the EB-5 program across Presidential administrations, whether they were Democrat or Republican. So when whistleblowers approach my office with these serious allegations, as I said before, I am determined to get to the bottom of these matters.

One of the cases in which whistleblowers said Mr. Mayorkas had intervened involved a company with ties to former Secretary Clinton's brother, Anthony Rodham.

Mr. Rodham's company wasn't happy with the speed with which its applications were being conducted by the Customs and Immigration Service, so company representatives made repeated inquiries to the Department of Homeland Security and Mr. Mayorkas. And they did this in an effort to get Mr. Mayorkas to speed things up.

My investigation found that between 2010 and 2013, Mr. Mayorkas had nearly a dozen contacts with that company, including direct communications with its attorneys. Mr. Mayorkas forwarded requests from the company along to his team, marking at least one of those forwarded messages as "high priority." He became heavily involved in the process of revising a draft of a technical decision from his Division's Administrative Appeals Office that was initially unfavorable to the company. So, because of his involvement, in the end, the opinion was rewritten in a manner that was much more favorable to Mr. Rodham's company.

In 2013, I wrote Mr. Mayorkas five letters about his management of the EB-5 program. In those letters, I asked him detailed questions in order to get his side of the story, and when he didn't answer my initial questions, I wrote him repeatedly to follow up.

At this point, it has been more than 7 years, and I still have not received answers to more than 25 specific questions that I asked during that 2013 investigation.

Following his nomination to serve as Department of Homeland Security Secretary, I wrote to Mr. Mayorkas again on January 15 to raise my concerns and to provide him yet another opportunity to answer my questions. He sent me a very short response on January 19 that—can you believe this?—still failed to answer most of the questions that I was trying to get answers for.

It is very important for nominees confirmed by this body to be responsive to congressional oversight requests. Mr. Mayorkas consistently refused to respond to my questions, and that should concern all of us in the U.S. Senate because no Senator should be denied answers to his questions doing

proper oversight of the executive branch.

Furthermore, we now know that many of the whistleblower allegations made to my office were accurate. Many whistleblowers who approached my office raised similar concerns with John Roth, the Obama-appointed inspector general at the Department of Homeland Security at that time, who released his office's report detailing its investigation into these matters way back in 2015.

In that 2015 report, Inspector General Roth found that "employees' belief that Mr. Mayorkas favored certain politically powerful EB-5 stakeholders was reasonable." That is the end of quote of the inspector general's report.

The IG also said that the number and variety of witnesses who came forward in his investigation was "highly unusual." Allegations didn't come from one or two disgruntled employees, according to the inspector general; they came from current and retired career and noncareer members of the Senior Executive Service, as well as all levels of supervisors, immigration officers, attorneys, and employees involved in fraud detection and in national security.

According to Inspector General Roth, the fact "[t]hat so many individuals were willing to step forward and tell . . . what happened [was] evidence of deep resentment about Mr. Mayorkas's actions related to the EB-5 program." That is the end of quote from the IG report.

The IG also found that Mr. Mayorkas's actions "created an appearance of favoritism and special access" in some EB-5 adjudication matters and that he "created specific processes and revised existing policies in the EB-5 program to accommodate specific parties."

In addition to the case involving Mr. Rodham's company, other cases reviewed by the inspector general involved well-connected Democrats, including former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

In each of the cases reviewed by the inspector general where Mr. Mayorkas had intervened, the IG found that "but for Mr. Mayorkas's intervention, the matter would have been decided differently."

Witnesses were also fearful, and some only spoke to the IG after being assured of anonymity. One whistleblower told my office they were extremely uncomfortable in meetings with Mr. Mayorkas.

Mr. Mayorkas's actions raised serious concerns in 2013 when he was nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security during President Obama's second term. It is why he couldn't be confirmed to that role until after then-Majority Leader Harry Reid invoked the nuclear option on nominations. Not a single Republican Senator was willing to support his confirmation then, and no Senator should support it at this time.

Finally, I am concerned that Mr. Mayorkas did not seem to express any regret whatsoever for his previous actions during his recent confirmation hearing before the Homeland Security Committee. Instead, he appeared to take the view that interfering in EB-5 cases on behalf of well-connected politicians and stakeholders was somehow the same as casework help offered to Americans who experienced problems with the international adoption systems. It was a baffling comparison.

Now, every one of us Senators knows that when a nominee for the Cabinet or Subcabinet comes before our committee, they are always asked questions by Senators—for sure, I do it: Will you respond to our oversight letters, phone calls, or appearing before our committee? And every one of them says yes, but not every one of them—how would you say it? Not every one of them keeps their word, I guess is what I should say. So I suggest to them, if you really want to be honest to take that oath to answer in an honest fashion, maybe when you have that question asked, “Will you respond to requests from committee members in our oversight work?” you ought to say “maybe” instead of saying “yes.”

Anyway, I think it is very clear that I strongly oppose Mr. Mayorkas's confirmation, and I urge all of my colleagues to reject it as well.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KING. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of morning business on Tuesday, February 2, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Calendar No. 5, Peter Buttigieg, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Transportation; further, that the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that at 12 noon, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Montana.

ABORTION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, tomorrow is the 48th annual March for Life. Although this year's march will primarily be virtual, the importance of standing together to protect the unborn, the most vulnerable, and all life, is as important now as it has ever been.

Forty-eight years ago, our country started down a dark path. Forty-eight

years ago, the Supreme Court tragically ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, and since then, we have lost the lives of 62 million people—62 million and counting—unborn babies, precious lives, by abortion.

I believe every human being is born with God-given dignity and potential. No court, no legislature, no law can take that away. Nevertheless, today, babies with Down syndrome are the most endangered on Earth.

For me, this is very personal. Just under 3 years ago, our world was blessed with a sweet baby boy named Andrew. He has Down's. His parents are very close friends. Andrew is a true joy, and his family celebrates his life every single day. Our world truly would not be the same without him.

But in the United States, 67 percent—67 percent—of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted, two out of three. For every person with Down syndrome alive today that you know or you meet—our friends, our family members, loved ones—two more are gone from this world because of abortion. This is chilling.

In Europe, the numbers are even worse. In fact, in Iceland, because of abortion, the population of individuals with Down syndrome is virtually being eradicated. As prenatal screenings increase in availability, mothers frequently learn before birth if their baby has Down syndrome. Rather than giving supportive resources, these vulnerable moms are often pressured to abort the baby. We all too often hear of a false compassion that it would be better for unborn babies with Down Syndrome or other disabilities to not be brought into this world rather than live a life that might be different from other children. But that is not who we are as Americans.

I am deeply concerned that for babies born with Down syndrome, abortion has become “a tool of modern day eugenics,” as Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has said. It pains me to think about it.

But we can't just think about this pain and the pain that it causes. We have to do something. We have to protect those precious lives at all costs. It is the duty of this body to end this injustice. That is why I am joining my colleague from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, in introducing the Protecting Individuals with Down Syndrome Act, which will prohibit abortions that are sought because of a diagnosis that an unborn child has or may have Down syndrome.

This effort has the overwhelming support of the American public. In fact, just yesterday, a new Knights of Columbus-Marist poll found that 70 percent of Americans oppose aborting a child on the basis that the child will be born with Down syndrome—70 percent. In fact, that includes over half of those who identify as pro-choice.

This issue also sadly exposes a terrible hypocrisy we are seeing among supporters of abortion on demand. In

fact, today, most Republicans and Democrats here in Congress are unified in their support for the Special Olympics and for protecting individuals with disabilities. Yet many of my colleagues across the aisle will oppose this commonsense legislation to stop the most lethal kind of discrimination imaginable, and that is being singled out and brutally killed because of a Down syndrome diagnosis. It is shameful.

As Henry Hyde famously said: “The promise of America is not just for the privileged, the planned and the perfect.”

It is our duty to protect every innocent life, no matter how small, no matter how many chromosomes they may have.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I stand before you and my colleagues today to speak in support of the nomination of Alejandro Mayorkas to serve as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

There is no question that Ali Mayorkas is qualified for this position. He previously served as the Director of U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, then as Deputy Secretary at DHS.

Today, I want to tell you about Ali Mayorkas's story. I want to tell you why he is the right pick for this position. And I want to tell you why we can achieve what we need to with Mr. Mayorkas leading the Department of Homeland Security.

During his hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, my fellow committee members and I had a chance to hear from Mr. Mayorkas and hear his family history.

He told us the harrowing story of his family fleeing persecution, traveling to a new country in search of freedom, acceptance, and a safe place to call home.

During the Holocaust, Mr. Mayorkas's mother lost her paternal grandparents and seven of her uncles simply for being Jewish—simply because of the faith they practiced. His mother and his maternal grandparents fled, but they fled in order to survive.

But the story of Mr. Mayorkas's family was far from over. His parents fled Cuba during Castro's revolution, bringing Mr. Mayorkas and his sister here to the United States in 1960. They came here as refugees searching for freedom, searching for acceptance, searching for safety.

Ali Mayorkas is an American success story. He came here as a child. His family made a life here. He pursued an education. He dedicated his life to public service. He worked hard to give back to the Nation that gave his family so much.

And now, Mr. Mayorkas has volunteered to serve his country once again.

In this new role, he will work to keep our Nation safe and secure while ensuring that we treat all human beings with dignity and respect.

Under the last Presidential administration, we saw unimaginable cruelty—family members separated from each other, children taken from their mothers' arms. We saw a total disregard of the struggles of refugees facing persecution in their home countries and making the heartbreaking choice to leave and make the dangerous journey to the United States.

I know that under the leadership of Secretary Mayorkas, our Department of Homeland Security will strive to uphold the values of our Nation. He will also bring much needed stability to the Department. He will work to reverse the cruel and heartless policies of the previous administration. He will work to protect Dreamers and TPS holders. He will work on smart solutions to secure our border. And he will work with Congress to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform. That is not all he will do at the DHS.

Under Mr. Mayorkas's leadership, he will work to ensure the safety and security of our homeland—the homeland he was brought to as a child, the homeland that he and his family have made their own. I spoke of the persecution that Ali Mayorkas's family faced during the Holocaust—a threat of anti-Semitism and White supremacy. Well, it still persists today, and it is growing right here in the United States and everywhere across the globe.

Last year, a DHS assessment concluded that “racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists—specifically white supremacist extremists—will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland.”

We have seen that violent extremism in action. We saw it on January 6 in this very city against this legislative body and in this very Chamber. When I asked Ali Mayorkas about this issue during our committee hearing, he made clear that he understands the threat that White supremacy, anti-Semitism, and extremism pose to the health of our Nation and to the health of our democracy.

If we are going to fight hatred and violent extremism, we need someone leading the charge who understands and takes seriously the threat to all Americans—the threats to our children, to our schools, to our workplaces, and to our places of worship. He is committed to addressing online radicalization and strengthening the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to ensure that houses of worship and other nonprofit organizations are kept safe from potential terror attacks.

So whether it is combating extremism, foreign or domestic terrorism, cyber attacks, or adversaries from abroad, Mr. Mayorkas expressed a clear commitment to keeping our Nation safe and is fully prepared and qualified to serve as the head of DHS.

Ali Mayorkas is the right pick to lead this Department, and I urge swift

confirmation so that he can get to work immediately for us and our country. I will vote for Ali Mayorkas, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Alejandro Mayorkas's nomination to be Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

As recent events have shown, our country is facing dangerous threats to our security and to our national security. Violence and domestic terrorism, spurred on by White supremacist ideology, anti-government sentiment, and conspiracy theories, continue to rise. We saw the tragic and deadly result of that growing threat right here in the Capitol just 3 weeks ago, and just yesterday the Department of Homeland Security issued a counterterrorism bulletin, warning of possible further violence in the coming weeks.

Earlier this year, we learned that hackers—likely backed by a foreign adversary—carried out the largest cyber security breach of our Federal Government. We still do not have all of the answers on how they were able to infiltrate our networks or what information they have access to.

All this is happening while we are struggling to control a once-in-a-century pandemic that has, tragically, taken over 425,000 American lives so far.

The Department of Homeland Security should be leading a forceful response to these complex and significant threats and protecting Americans, but the Department and its more than 240,000 employees need a qualified, experienced, and Senate-confirmed leader at the helm—a leader like Alejandro Mayorkas.

Mr. Mayorkas has built an extensive national security record throughout his career in public service. He has been confirmed by the Senate three times, including twice for senior roles at the Department of Homeland Security. Not only did he help lead the Obama administration's successful responses to the Ebola and Zika epidemics, he also played a critical role in protecting the homeland from foreign and domestic terrorism, strengthened our national cyber security, and increased cooperation between the Federal Government and local law enforcement agencies.

Not only does he stand ready to lead the Department as it tackles serious and challenging national security threats, Mr. Mayorkas also understands that the Department and its mission have a real effect on people and their families. His own family's journey to the United States—first fleeing Nazi occupation in Eastern Europe and later immigrating to the United States from Cuba—has given

him a unique perspective on the very heart of the Department's mission—something that was certainly lost during the previous administration. Mr. Mayorkas is uniquely qualified to make sure the Department of Homeland Security is working to protect people from all backgrounds, all communities, and all walks of life.

Mr. Mayorkas has the qualifications, the experience, and the record of accomplishments to provide steady leadership, to help restore trust in the Department, and to safeguard our national security. That is why it is no surprise that his nomination has been endorsed by four former Homeland Security Secretaries and a former Acting Secretary from both Democratic and Republican administrations. He also has the support of a group of more than 30 cyber security experts, 34 former Homeland Security officials, and multiple law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police.

Within this body, there are certainly very different views of the role of the Federal Government, but one thing I think we can all agree on as a top priority is keeping Americans safe. It is our No. 1 job, and that is why I am asking my colleagues to join me today in supporting the confirmation of Mr. Mayorkas as Secretary of Homeland Security so that he can quickly begin the important and essential task of working to strengthen our national security and safeguarding all Americans.

I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Robert Menendez, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Dianne Feinstein, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Executive]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Lujan	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	Menendez	Sullivan
Coons	Merkley	Tester
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Toomey
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Graham	Warner
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MUDD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the American Printing House for the Blind, APH, has held a special place in Gary Mudd's life since he was in the sixth grade. Over the last three decades, he has become one of the leading voices and most successful advocates for the world's largest nonprofit creating educational products for people who are blind and visually impaired. Now, Gary is closing that book and beginning a well-deserved retirement. As he does, I would like to offer my congratulations and recognize his many contributions to APH's mission and its future.

As a student, Gary took classes next door to APH at the Kentucky School for the Blind in Louisville. His textbooks prominently displayed APH's name. His teachers spoke of the organization with the highest esteem. And at night in his dorm room, he could hear the churn of the braille printing presses. At this early age, Gary was surrounded by the positive difference APH could make in a person's life.

Of course, his path to APH wasn't as easy as walking next door. Gary got his start working in radio. After 4 years, he decided he wanted to join the printing house. Anyone who knows Gary could tell you that once he set his mind on the job, it was only a matter of time before a new opportunity became available. To hear him tell it, Gary badgered APH's then-president until he got the chance to put his skills to work as a marketing associate in 1986.

Decades of Gary's characteristic persistence brought more opportunities and new responsibilities. At last, he got the chance to steer the organization as its vice president of government and community affairs. Through books, tactile educational products, and ever improving technologies, Gary helped APH drive inclusion and help students and adults achieve success.

At every step, Gary has continued learning and adapting to advance APH's mission. He has built strong relationships with educational experts and community leaders. In 2011, he even had the chance to join Dolly Parton on stage as they announced a partnership with the music icon's Imagination Library.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Gary to deliver hundreds of millions of Federal dollars to help APH serve people throughout the country. On Capitol Hill, Gary's loyal guide

dogs, Heathcliff and Denver, are probably as well-known and admired as he is. With a gentle nature and a passion for his work, Gary has made friends and allies throughout Washington who are eager to support APH's inspiring work.

Gary has a lot of plans for his retirement, but they don't include slowing down. He looks forward to pursuing passions like biking around Louisville, reading the books on his shelf, and maybe even going back to school. His first goal is to spend more time with his wife, Susan, their daughters and their grandchildren. He has earned every minute of it. I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Gary for his leadership in Kentucky and to send him into retirement with our best wishes.

REMEMBERING BARBARA A. O'MALLEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved figure in the Senate community, the late Barbara A. O'Malley, who passed away on January 6.

For three decades, Mrs. O worked in the office of our former colleague, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland. She ran the front desk, which means I had the pleasure of seeing her regularly on the way to and from my nearby office. Especially in the mornings, she and I would chat about the news, the Senate, our families, and whatever else. She always greeted me with tremendous affection and kindness and baked some of the most delicious cookies I and my staff have ever had. We will miss her greatly.

Mrs. O deeply loved her family. She was married to her husband, Thomas Martin, for 52 years until his death in 2006. Together, they had six children: Peter, Paul, Patrick, Martin, Eileen, and Bridgett; 15 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

She also loved airplanes. While still in high school, she was among the first women to volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, earning her pilot's license and taking to the skies. Later in life, she volunteered at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum to bring her love for aircraft and flight to all those who visited.

The saying goes, if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog. Mrs. O proved that wrong. She treated everyone with good will and offered an important example of friendship to Senators and staff alike. Mrs. O lived her life in service to her Catholic faith, to her beloved State of Maryland, and to the Senate. I am proud to have called her a friend.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY ABRAHAMSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the distinguished life of Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, who died

on December 19, 2020, at the age of 87. Justice Abrahamson was a consummate public servant who was passionately driven by the principle of fairness when applying the law and serving the people of Wisconsin. Her unparalleled commitment to judicial independence and justice had an immeasurable impact on Wisconsin's judicial system and the countless women and men who have been inspired to work in public service by her leadership. She was the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the first woman to serve as chief justice, but her legacy is even richer than those exceptional accomplishments.

Justice Abrahamson's life had modest beginnings in New York City in 1933, as the child of Polish immigrants. Her passion for the law started at the tender age of 6, when she decided she wanted to become a lawyer. Those who knew her at all stages of life—from childhood to retirement—consistently commented on her thirst for learning. She was a voracious reader even at a very young age and a dedicated student, earning honors in high school and college.

Justice Abrahamson graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree from New York University in 1953. She earned a law degree with high distinction from Indiana University in 1956 and a doctor of law in American Legal History from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1962. Justice Abrahamson began her career as a practicing attorney and distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Justice Abrahamson's career is an inspiration to all women who are fighting forces that tell them they don't belong because of their gender. She faced significant discrimination when she entered the legal profession in the 1950s. From being denied employment at a law firm after graduating first in her class at Indiana University, to the denial of jobs, clients, and even social club memberships because of her gender, Justice Abrahamson remained undaunted by prejudice. She refused to back down from those who stood in the way of a woman's path to success in the legal profession. She carried that steadfast commitment to fairness and equality in her work on the court.

In 1976, Justice Abrahamson broke the glass ceiling in Wisconsin's judicial system by becoming the first female justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She again changed the judicial landscape in 1996 when she became the first woman to serve as chief justice. For the chief, serving on the supreme court meant serving the people of Wisconsin as an independent, fair, and impartial justice because, after all, the court and our court system belong to the people, not powerful special interests. That is why she spent a lot of her time traveling the State, meeting with people. Whether it was meeting with local judges, riding along with local law enforcement, or meeting with ad-

vocates for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, she always understood that you can't serve the people if you don't walk in their shoes. That is why the people of Wisconsin elected her to the supreme court four times and she served 43 years on the court—serving the people.

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Justice Abrahamson was “most courageous and sage, and ever mindful of the people—all the people—that the law exists or should exist to serve.”

Justice Abrahamson was cherished and respected as a mentor, teacher, advocate, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was known for her strong work ethic, often the last person working at night at the State capitol preparing for a case. Even as she faced pancreatic cancer at the end of her last term on the State supreme court, Justice Abrahamson fearlessly continued working, noting, “On any day in this state, more than a quarter-million people are facing a cancer diagnosis.” She tried to make the law more accessible and understandable to clients and the general public and brought a caring perspective to her professional and personal interactions. Her passion was also seen outside of the courtroom in her travels and treasured relationships with family and friends.

Justice Abrahamson was a true American hero. From her incomparable tenure on the Wisconsin Supreme Court to her efforts as a pioneer for gender equality, Justice Abrahamson lived a life devoted to service and justice for all. Her greatest legacy is the trail she blazed for countless young women, who can see themselves in a courtroom or on a judicial bench because of the barriers she fearlessly broke through. She will shine in Wisconsin's history as one of the most influential women who shaped not only our judicial institutions but the State as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO NEIL HEINEN

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Neil Heinen, editorial director for WISC-TV and Madison Magazine, on his retirement. Throughout his remarkable career, Neil has been steadfast in his commitment to fair and honest reporting, clear-headed editorials and fascinating stories about the community he loves.

Born in Milwaukee, WI as the oldest of 11 children, Neil first attended St. Norbert College in Green Bay in 1969. He dropped out to spend 4 years working in a mental hospital, where he said he received his real education. He worked as a bartender and actor in Madison before deciding to study journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He began his career at WIBA radio station, spending 10 years on the air before joining the team at WISC-TV News as a news assignment editor.

It was there that Neil worked with longtime station manager Tom Bier to

create an editorial director job just as most stations were eliminating their editorial departments. Neil delivered more than 7,400 on-air editorials since he first conveyed the station's views in April of 1992. He also hosted a Sunday morning public affairs program, “For the Record,” that ran 1,500 episodes over 30 years.

Perhaps Neil's greatest legacy is his leadership in guiding the growth and creativity of Madison Magazine, which won countless awards for providing its nearly 170,000 readers with interesting coverage of local people, entertainment, and issues. Neil's contributions included monthly columns on issues of importance to Madisonians and a monthly food column he coauthored with his wife, Nancy Christy. Madison readers particularly enjoyed his cover stories focused on leadership and visions for Madison's future.

Neil has been a familiar and trusted voice in many of Madison's most important events and controversial issues for the past 30 years. He is known for his support of major community projects such as the Monona Terrace Convention Center, the UW-Madison Kohl Center and Overture Center for the Arts. He helped launch We the People/Wisconsin, one of the most successful civic journalism projects in the country in the 1990s, and worked to start Schools of Hope, an initiative to help close the achievement gap in Madison schools.

While Neil's last day of work was this past September 15, I know he will remain active in the community for many years to come, lending his voice to complex community conversations and championing causes that bring us together. I will be forever grateful for Neil's commitment to the Madison community and for offering his wise perspective in critical times.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DALE HANKINS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Dale Hankins of Chouteau County for volunteering countless hours to support his fellow veterans.

When Dale was 10 years old, a friend of his father, a WWII vet, carried a diamond willow cane. Dale was so intrigued by the way the diamonds stood out, he couldn't take his eyes off of it. At the age of 17, he made his first attempt at carving a cane, and soon realized and appreciated the effort it took to create such beautiful craftsmanship. By the time he finished, his hands were so full of blisters he decided to pursue other hobbies.

Dale later joined the U.S. Army and served in Charlie Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, as an airborne infantry soldier. After receiving his honorable discharge, he returned to Montana and joined the Montana Army National Guard. Having a

renewed appreciation for the sacrifices veterans give, he picked up his hobby again in 2007 and began making diamond willow canes for disabled veterans. Each one is unique and personalized for the veteran, and an American flag is included on the handle of each cane.

Dale hasn't stopped since. He invests 80 hours or more to make each cane beautiful and durable, all at no cost to the veteran. Veterans across the Nation from Florida to Washington are proudly using his gift which has aided in their quality of life.

It is my honor to recognize Dale for his efforts to support and appreciate our heroes for the sacrifices they have made for our great Nation. The compassion and commitment of these extraordinary veterans are an inspiration to us all.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-117. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act" (FHEO 2020-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-118. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Payments by Resource Extraction Issuers" (RIN3235-AM06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-119. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Activities and Operations of National Banks and Federal Savings Associations" (RIN1557-AE74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-120. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption from the Definition of 'Clearing Agency' for Certain Activities of Security-Based Swap Dealers and Security-Based Swap Execution Facilities" (RIN3235-AK74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-121. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Custody of Digital Asset Securities by Special Purpose Broker-Dealers" (17 CFR Part 240) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-122. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of

the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Asset Thresholds" (RIN1557-AF06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-123. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-124. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Report of Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-125. A communication from the Vice President, Office of External Affairs, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on Development Impact for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-126. A communication from the Managing Director, Congressional Affairs, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Activities: Independent Accountability Mechanism, Fiscal Year 2020"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-127. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0104–2020-0107); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-128. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Australia Group; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-129. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring additional steps to be taken concerning the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber enabled activities declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, received during adjournment of the Senate on January 18, 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-130. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-131. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 21st Century IDEA 2020 report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-132. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-133. A communication from the Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal

year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-134. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2020 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-135. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-136. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer and Chief FOIA Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2019 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-137. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-138. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2019 Annual Report to the President and Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-139. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2017 NASA FAIR Act Inventory"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-140. A communication from the Secretary of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual report relative to its compliance with Section 3686(c) of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-141. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corps' Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-142. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations" (Docket No. FDA-2000-N-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-143. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-144. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the General

Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Health and Human Services Good Guidance Practices" (RIN0906-AC17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-145. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Health and Human Services Good Guidance Practices" (RIN0991-AC17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-146. A communication from the Compliance Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tip Regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)" (RIN1235-AA21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-147. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improving Investment Advice for Workers and Retirees" (RIN1210-ZA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-148. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2019 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-149. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appellate Procedures and Decisional Finality in Immigration Proceedings; Administrative Closure" (RIN1125-AA96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-150. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Changes to Requirements Affecting H-2A Nonimmigrants Due to the COVID-19 National Emergency; Extension of Certain Flexibilities" (RIN1615-AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-151. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal" (RIN1125-AA93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-152. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Executive Office for Immigration Review; Fee Review" (RIN1125-AA90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-153. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Of-

fice, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice to Allocate the Burden of Persuasion on Motions to Amend in Trial Proceedings Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board" (RIN0651-AD34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-154. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Entity Government Use License Exception" (RIN0651-AD33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-155. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Registration Requirement for Petitioners Seeking to File Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions" (RIN1615-AC61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-156. A communication from the Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report On The Continuing Need For Authorized Bankruptcy Judgeships"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-157. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report to Congress concerning intercepted wire, oral, or electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-158. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Las Vegas, Nevada" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0353)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 74. A bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 75. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 76. A bill to prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LEE):

S. 77. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from conducting or supporting any research involving human fetal tissue that is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 78. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 79. A bill to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. THUNE, Mr. LEE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 80. A bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 81. A bill to protect the privacy of health information during a national health

emergency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 82. A bill to require a joint task force on air travel during and after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 83. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain abortion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 84. A bill to end the unconstitutional delegation of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section 1 of the Constitution of the United States, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 85. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the deduction for certain taxes, including State and local property and income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 86. A bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 87. A bill to prohibit the expenditure for an abortion of Federal funds authorized or appropriated for preventing, preparing for, or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SASSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 88. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 89. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID-19 to determine

whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 90. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to repeal the authority of the President to assume emergency control of the police of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 91. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund, to direct the Secretary to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 92. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 93. A bill to amend the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to modify the foreign persons subject to sanctions and to remove the sunset for the imposition of sanctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 94. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to hiring veterans who are receiving educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or Defense; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 95. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Ms.

DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 96. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 97. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 98. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 99. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 100. A bill to provide guidance and priorities for Federal Government obligations in the event that the debt limit is reached and to provide a limited and temporary authority to exceed the debt limit for priority obligations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 101. A bill to establish the Environmental Justice Mapping Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 102. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 103. A bill to preserve the constitutional authority of Congress and ensure accountability and transparency in legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 104. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 105. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 106. A bill to allow a State to submit a declaration of intent to the Secretary of Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr.

DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 107. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate sale of State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 108. A bill to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 109. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 110. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 111. A bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 112. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 113. A bill to require providers of broadband internet access service and edge services to clearly and conspicuously notify users of the privacy policies of those providers, to give users opt-in or opt-out approval rights with respect to the use of, disclosure of, and access to user information collected by those providers based on the level of sensitivity of the information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 114. A bill to amend the SOAR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 115. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 116. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 117. A bill to establish an Intercountry Adoption Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 118. A bill to establish the Rural Export Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 119. A bill to authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 120. A bill to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates domestic violence and other crimes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 121. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish demonstration and pilot projects to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 122. A bill to provide a credit against payroll taxes to businesses and nonprofit organizations that purchase or upgrade ventilation and air filtration systems to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne communicable diseases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 123. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 124. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr.

PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 126. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the individual tax provisions of the tax reform law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 127. A bill to support library infrastructure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 128. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of direct primary care service arrangements as medical care, to provide that such arrangements do not disqualify deductible health savings account contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 129. A bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear material couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 130. A bill to extend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard of the District of Columbia as the Governors of the several States exercise over the National Guard of those States with respect to administration of the National Guard and its use to respond to natural disasters and other civil disturbances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SASSE):

S. 131. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for lifelong learning accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 132. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for training services received by individuals who are unemployed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. KING, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 133. A bill to assist States in carrying out projects to expand the child care facilities in the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 134. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 135. A bill to establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 136. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SASSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 137. A bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 138. A bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 139. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 140. A bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO,

Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 142. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

S. 143. A bill to authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a memorial service in honor of United States Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick for his courage and sacrifice at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 19. A resolution recognizing January 2021 as "National Mentoring Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Res. 20. A resolution providing for sufficient time for legislation to be read; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 21. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2021 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 22. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Ecuador and recognizing the restoration and advancement of economic relations, security, and development opportunities in both nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. Res. 23. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Henry Louis Aaron; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution of the United States, and recog-

nizing the 235th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 35

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 35, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Officer Eugene Goodman.

S. 59

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes.

S. 60

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 60, a bill to provide for the effective use of immigration detainers to enhance public safety.

S. 62

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 62, a bill to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

S. 68

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 68, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 12, a resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on January 22, 2021.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 85. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the deduction for certain taxes, including State and local property and income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 85

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Access to Lower Taxes by ensuring Deductibility Act” or the “SALT Deductibility Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON DEDUCTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL, ETC. TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 164(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 96. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, among the many barriers to safely bringing students, teachers, and staff back to school for in-person instruction is the condition of school facilities. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that over half (54 percent) of school districts nationwide need to update or replace multiple systems in their schools, such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), or plumbing. These systems are especially critical to safeguarding public health as we combat COVID-19.

Now is the time to invest in school infrastructure. Doing so will improve the resilience of our schools, improve student learning, reduce carbon emissions, and create jobs. That is why I am proud to partner with Chairman SCOTT in the House of Representatives in introducing the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act to fix our schools. I would like to thank my Senate colleagues who are joining in this effort, including Senators BROWN, BOOKER, CARDIN, CORTEZ MASTO, WHITEHOUSE, MERKLEY, HIRONO, GILLIBRAND, VAN HOLLEN, ROSEN, SMITH, MURPHY, SHAHEEN, KLOBUCHAR, LUJÁN, CASEY, DURBIN, WARREN, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, HEINRICH, DUCKWORTH, COONS, LEAHY, and STABENOW.

Public schools play a vital role in every community across the Nation. They play a central role in our democracy—educating the next generation, serving as polling places for our elections, hosting community meetings and events, and so much more. When there is a natural disaster or an emer-

gency, people often gather at their public schools for shelter, information, and resources. They are essential facilities and must be included in any new major federal investment in infrastructure.

Safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are also essential for advancing student achievement and ensuring that the next generation is prepared to meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our Nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave public school buildings across the country an overall grade of D+ in its latest report card. The 2016 State of Our Schools report found that state and local governments spend \$46 billion less than what is required to update and maintain their school facilities.

States and local communities cannot bridge this gap alone, especially when many struggle to simply keep teachers and staff on the payroll. We know the budget shortfalls will hit low-income and minority communities the hardest. The GAO report found high poverty schools were more likely to rely on state funding to cover the cost of building repairs compared to wealthier schools, which were more likely to fund projects through local property taxes. The Federal government can and should be a partner in upgrading our public school facilities.

Addressing this need is not only the right thing to do for our students; it will also give a needed boost to our economy, putting people to work in family sustaining jobs. According to an analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, every \$1 billion spent on construction generates 17,785 jobs.

The Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2021 will create a Federal-State partnership for school infrastructure. It will provide, over ten years, a total of \$130 billion in direct grants and school construction bonds to help fill the annual gap in school facility capital needs, while creating nearly two million jobs.

Specifically, the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$100 billion in formula funds to states for local competitive grants for school repair, renovation, and construction. States will focus assistance on communities with the greatest financial need, encourage green construction practices, and expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that all students have access to digital learning. Our legislation would also provide \$30 billion for qualified school infrastructure bonds (QSIBs), \$10 billion each year from FY 2022 through FY 2024, and restore the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) that were eliminated in the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The legislation also eases the matching requirements and expands the authority and eligible purposes of QZABs to allow local education agencies to con-

struct, rehabilitate, retrofit, or repair school facilities. The Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act also supports American workers by ensuring that projects use American-made iron, steel, and manufactured products and meet labor standards.

I would like to thank the broad coalition of educators, community organizations, unions, civil rights advocates, and employers that have provided feedback and support for this legislation, including the 21st Century Schools Fund, AASA The School Superintendents Association, American Association of School Administrators, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Concrete Pumping Association, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, Association of School Business Officials International, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, BlueGreen Alliance, Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition, Californians for School Facilities, Coalition for Healthier Schools, Concrete Foundations Association, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Council of Great City Schools, Green Building Initiative, Healthy Schools Network, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Association of School Nurses, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Concrete Masonry Association, National Education Association, National Precast Concrete Association, National PTA, National Ready Mixed Concrete, National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium, National Rural Education Association, National Urban League, North America's Building Trades Union, North American Concrete Alliance, Organizations Concerned About Rural Education, Parents for School Safety, Portland Cement Association, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Public Advocacy for Kids, Rebuild America's Schools Coalition, Rural School and Community Trust, Teach Plus, The Brick Industry Association, Tilt-Up Concrete Association, U.S. Green Building Council, and the United Steelworkers.

We have no time to waste in fixing our deteriorating school infrastructure. In the words of a student activist in Providence, Rhode Island: “Students cannot learn in a crumbling building, a school that isn't fit to uplift our minds.” We need to listen to our students, strengthen our communities,

and improve our school buildings. I urge all of our colleagues to support the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act and press for its passage.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 102. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act," which I introduced today. Representative TED LIEU (D-CA) is introducing companion legislation in the House.

BACKGROUND ON THE WEST LOS ANGELES VA CAMPUS

In 1888, the 388-acre campus that is now home to the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center was deeded to the federal government by Arcadia Bandini de Stearns Baker and Senator John P. Jones in order to establish a home for disabled Civil War Veterans.

Until the 1970s, the land served primarily to house Veterans, and the campus long represented the largest Veteran housing development in the nation.

Unfortunately, in 1972, 2,800 Veterans living on the West LA VA campus were displaced after the Sylmar Earthquake caused major damage on campus. Rather than repair the housing units, the VA eventually leased portions of the property to non-VA tenants.

Forty years later, homeless Veterans and advocates sued the VA for illegally leasing facilities on campus and for failing to use the property to support Veterans, as required by the original deed.

A U.S. District Court subsequently ruled that many leases on campus were illegal under the terms of the original deed, and in 2015, the VA agreed to facilitate the development of 1,200 housing units for homeless Veterans on campus.

In 2016, Congress enacted legislation that I introduced with Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman TED LIEU, entitled the "West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016," to set up an oversight framework for the housing development and to ensure that lease revenues from ongoing leases stayed on campus.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 2018, the VA selected a "Principal Developer" to complete housing renovation and construction projects on campus, allowing for a more streamlined and efficient building process.

However, the VA has determined that current law restricts it from using on-campus lease revenues for housing construction, maintenance, or services. The VA has determined that clarifying language is needed to ensure that funds generated on campus can be used for these purposes.

Giving VA the flexibility to use locally-generated revenue in this way could significantly reduce the time it

takes to get homeless Veterans into housing.

BILL SUMMARY

The "West LA VA Campus Improvement Act" would explicitly authorize the VA to use any funds collected pursuant to leases, easements or other use agreements at the West LA VA for the development of supportive housing and services on campus.

The bill would also increase the time period for enhanced use leases on the campus from 75 to 99 years. Increasing the length of the leases would align with other leasing terms the VA has, and help reduce the financing costs for new housing.

CONCLUSION

Last year, the regional homelessness count reported that more than 3,900 Veterans are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. It is long past time for this land to be returned to its intended purpose: to serve as a home where Veterans can receive the care and treatment they deserve.

This bill will help move us closer to that reality.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 127. A bill to support library infrastructure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to address the decades of underinvestment in our Nation's libraries by reinstating Federal support for library construction.

Libraries are essential community institutions that give the public access to information and services that expand learning and promote economic opportunity. When we invest in our libraries, we are offering a helping hand and hope for the future. During natural disasters and economic upheaval, libraries offer the resources and information that help people get back on their feet. As the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards reportedly said, "The public library is the great equalizer."

Over the last year, COVID-19 and the heightened attention to racial and economic inequality have made clear that investment in our communities should be a national priority as we work to lift people up and bring the country closer together. And that our investment in infrastructure must encompass vital community assets like schools and libraries and not just roads, bridges, and highways.

And while we know libraries are more than buildings with books and computers, they are still buildings. For thirty years, the Federal government invested in the physical infrastructure of our libraries, but abandoned that program in the early 1990s. The intervening years have taken their toll on library facilities. Indeed, the average library building is now more than 40 years old and many need large-scale improvements and modernization.

On top of this longstanding underinvestment, the pandemic has forced libraries to adapt and innovate to meet the evolving needs of their communities despite limited financial resources. The American Library Association projects billions of dollars in losses to libraries over the course of the pandemic, at a time when reliance on libraries from low-income, underserved, and Tribal communities is increasing. The pandemic's outsized impact on vulnerable communities only heightens the urgency of investing in libraries.

The Build America's Libraries Act would make \$5 billion available over three years to support improvements to library facilities and invest in new library infrastructure to expand the reach of library services and programs. Priority is given to libraries that demonstrate the greatest need and predominantly serve underserved or distressed communities. The legislation also places emphasis on projects that seek to enhance facility safety, high-speed broadband access, accessibility for those with disabilities, or energy efficiency. Library construction funded by this legislation will directly boost our struggling economy by putting Americans to work and strengthening the facilities that connect patrons with educational and workforce training resources and local economic opportunities.

Libraries have always anchored our communities, and as such, we should ensure their ability to provide critical services for years to come. I am pleased to be joined by Senators WHITEHOUSE, WYDEN, and SANDERS in introducing this bill, which has the support of many organizations, including the American Library Association; American Indian Library Association; American Institute of Architects; American Society of Interior Designers; Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; Association for Rural & Small Libraries; Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Council of State Archivists; Education Market Association; International WELL Building Institute; National Coalition for History; National Coalition for Literacy; National Digital Inclusion Alliance; National Summer Learning Association; Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition; and Urban Libraries Council. I hope that our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring the Build America's Libraries Act and work for its inclusion in any infrastructure package.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 138. A bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act," which I introduced today.

BACKGROUND

Fueled by climate change, the annual Western wildfire season has grown longer and more intense. Where the threat used to peak between August and November, we are now seeing massive wildfire events earlier in the Summer and continuing through the end of the year.

Last year alone, California experienced more than 9,600 fires which burned more than 4.1 million acres, consumed more than 10,000 structures, and claimed 33 lives.

It is imperative that we commit enough manpower and resources to combat the threat that such devastating wildfire seasons pose to life and property.

Unfortunately, some of our most experienced Federal firefighters work so many overtime hours each year that they reach an overtime pay cap and become ineligible for additional overtime compensation. Others are forced to pay back money they have rightfully earned fighting wildfires.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Federal firefighters from the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior are paid on the General Schedule (GS) pay scale based on their seniority and performance. They make a base salary and are paid overtime when they exceed eight hours a day.

However, there is an annual premium pay cap that limits how many overtime hours for which these firefighters can be compensated.

This arbitrary pay cap places an unfair expectation on federal fire personnel to work long hours for less or even no pay, and serves as a dangerous disincentive to respond to more fire incidents, especially later in the fire season. California's worst wildfires often occur late in the fire season, further illustrating the problem we face.

The Forest Service estimates that up to 500 senior-level firefighters either stop participating or do not request pay for hours worked once they reach the pay cap. This has a significant negative impact on federal wildfire response capabilities.

WHAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD DO

Our bill would create a statutory waiver for Federal firefighters responding to wildfire emergencies to ensure they receive fair compensation for all overtime hours they work.

This waiver would apply to Forest Service and Department of the Interior personnel engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities.

CONCLUSION

For wildland firefighters, working long hours in dangerous conditions is often considered a necessary part of the job. It is crucial that this demanding work be recognized, and that these heroes be appropriately compensated for the critical service that they perform.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 19—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2021 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 19

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, celebrate the powerful impact of caring adults who volunteer time for the benefit of young people, and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into the efforts of the organizations;

Whereas there are young people across the United States who make everyday choices that lead to the big decisions in life without the guidance and support on which many other young people rely;

Whereas a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength and achieve the potential of that young person;

Whereas quality mentoring encourages positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures youth leadership development;

Whereas mentoring happens in various settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others;

Whereas mentoring programs have been shown to be effective in helping young people make positive choices;

Whereas studies have shown that incorporating culture and heritage into mentoring programs can improve academic outcomes and increase community engagement, especially for Alaskan Native and American Indian youth;

Whereas young people who meet regularly with mentors are 46 percent less likely than peers to start using illegal drugs;

Whereas research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were, as compared with similarly situated young people without a mentor—

(1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college;

(2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities;

(3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team; and

(4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in the communities of young people;

Whereas students who are chronically absent are more likely to fall behind academically, and mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly, as research shows that students who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers of those students—

(1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school; and

(2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class;

Whereas youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs;

Whereas each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serves to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in the United States; and

Whereas, despite those described benefits, an estimated 9,000,000 young people in the United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside the home, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2021 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes the caring adults who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young people of the United States find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because mentoring supports educational achievement and self-confidence, supports young people in setting career goals and expanding social capital, reduces juvenile delinquency, improves positive personal, professional, and academic outcomes, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the United States to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people in the United States who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside the home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 20—PROVIDING FOR SUFFICIENT TIME FOR LEGISLATION TO BE READ

Mr. PAUL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 20

Resolved,

SECTION 1. TIME FOR READING OF LEGISLATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order for the Senate to consider any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment between the Houses, amendment, treaty, or other measure or matter until 1 session day has passed since introduction for every 20 pages included in the measure or matter in the usual form plus 1 session day for any number of remaining pages less than 20 in the usual form.

(b) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may raise a point of order that consideration of any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment, treaty, or other measure or matter is not in order under subsection (a). A motion to table the point of order shall not be in order.

(2) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. All motions to waive under this paragraph shall be debatable collectively for not

to exceed 3 hours equally divided between the Senator raising the point of order and the Senator moving to waive the point of order or their designees. A motion to waive the point of order shall not be amendable.

(c) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—This resolution is adopted pursuant to the power granted to each House of Congress to determine the Rules of its Proceedings in article I, section 5, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2021 AS “NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 21

Whereas approximately 1 in 6 women in the United States, at some point during their lifetimes, have experienced stalking victimization, during which the women felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed;

Whereas it is estimated that each year between 6,000,000 and 7,500,000 individuals in the United States report that they have been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 85 percent of victims of stalking reported that they had been stalked by someone they knew;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of intimate partner stalking victims were threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking reported having been stalked for more than 5 years;

Whereas two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and the services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals 18 to 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victim-

ization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the risk of online stalking and harassment, particularly among school-aged individuals;

Whereas victim service organizations and law enforcement entities have swiftly adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue to serve victims of stalking; and

Whereas the Senate finds that “National Stalking Awareness Month” provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2021 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”;

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers for victims of stalking, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, campuses, and private sector supporters to promote awareness of stalking;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and continue to support the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—RE-AFFIRMING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR AND RECOGNIZING THE RESTORATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN BOTH NATIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISC, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 22

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have enjoyed a history of bilateral partnership and cooperation, and share the aims of promoting democratic values, economic prosperity, and the security of both nations;

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have taken important steps to restore the bilateral relationship between the United States and Ecuador, including by signing various agreements to strengthen economic ties, security cooperation, and development opportunities;

Whereas President Moreno has signaled Ecuador's commitment to promoting democratic values and has advocated for greater government transparency;

Whereas in February 2018, more than 64 percent of Ecuadorians voted, in a constitutional referendum, to reinstate a 2-term presidential limit, an effort that was carried out by President Moreno's administration and which is indicative of the Ecuadorian people's support for presidential term limits

as a reasonable check against a history of corruption and abuse of power;

Whereas the United States-Ecuador bilateral relationship has been historically characterized by strong commercial and investment ties through the Generalized System of Preferences, the United States-Ecuador Trade and Investment Council, and the Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Ecuador Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, done at Washington August 27, 1993, which was terminated by Ecuador's previous government, effective May 18, 2018;

Whereas President Moreno's administration has committed to implement economic policies that will lay the groundwork for sustainable economic growth, while protecting the poorest and most vulnerable people;

Whereas, under President Moreno's leadership, there have been significant advances in areas related to freedom of expression, including through the reform of the controversial Ecuadorian Communications Law;

Whereas the Government of Ecuador has called for the peaceful restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela and Ecuador has been a generous host of approximately 385,000 Venezuelan refugees;

Whereas on May 15, 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to the return of the USAID Mission to Ecuador after the 53-year program was forced to close in 2014 due to tensions in the bilateral relationship;

Whereas Ecuador has been one of the countries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, which has overwhelmed the country's health care system and aggravated the country's already challenging economic situation;

Whereas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID is providing Ecuador with technical support and training in diagnostics, and technical assistance in clinical management, risk communication, and community engagement; and

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have agreed to advance security cooperation on law enforcement, counternarcotics, anticorruption, and bilateral military training and assistance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment—

(A) to the historic partnership between the United States and Ecuador; and

(B) to continue working to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Ecuador based on mutual respect and shared democratic values and principles;

(2) recognizes President Lenin Moreno and his administration for recommitting Ecuador to democratic values, anti-corruption efforts, and the adoption of economic policies that will benefit the people of Ecuador;

(3) commends the important steps that President Moreno and his administration have taken to protect freedom of expression and freedom of the press in his country;

(4) encourages the Republic of Ecuador to ensure that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are protected; and

(5) supports actions to strengthen the historic bilateral relationship between the United States and Ecuador, including—

(A) by strengthening economic relationships with Ecuador to build mutual prosperity through greater transparency, adherence to the rule of law, and support for human rights;

(B) stronger law enforcement and security cooperation between the 2 countries, including in cybersecurity, border management, addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, counternarcotics, anti-money

laundering, military and civilian security professionalization, and criminal justice capabilities;

(C) the return of the United States Agency for International Development and the extension of the Peace Corps Program in Ecuador;

(D) continued United States assistance for Ecuador's response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;

(E) closer ties between Americans and Ecuadoreans through English language learning and teaching programs that foster greater professional and educational opportunities;

(F) continued efforts to protect freedom of expression and freedom of the press; and

(G) continued efforts to ensure that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are protected.

SENATE RESOLUTION 23—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY LOUIS AARON

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 23

Whereas Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron was born 1 of 8 children on February 5, 1934, to Herbert Aaron Sr. and Estella (Pritchett) Aaron in Mobile, Alabama;

Whereas Mr. Aaron grew up during the height of Jim Crow and segregation and faced racism and discrimination from a young age, including from the stands while playing in the South as a minor league baseball player early in his baseball career;

Whereas Mr. Aaron began his baseball career as a teenager in the Negro leagues, first playing for the Prichard Athletics, then the Mobile Black Bears, before being signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League;

Whereas, in 1952, Mr. Aaron was signed by the Boston Braves, who assigned him to play in the minor league for their Northern League farm team, the Eau Claire Bears, where he made the Northern League's All-Star team and was unanimously named Rookie of the Year;

Whereas, in 1953, Mr. Aaron was promoted to play for the South Atlantic League affiliate of the Braves, the Jacksonville Braves, as one of the league's first Black players, where he immediately helped the team win the league championship and won the South Atlantic League's Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas, in 1954, Mr. Aaron was invited to attend spring training with the Milwaukee Braves and signed his first Major League Baseball contract on the final day of Braves spring training, making his Major League Baseball debut against the Cincinnati Reds and hitting his first Major League Baseball home run on April 23, 1954;

Whereas Mr. Aaron won his first batting title in 1956 and was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1957, helping the Braves win their first pennant in Milwaukee and leading the Braves to a 1957 World Series victory against the New York Yankees;

Whereas, in 1966, Mr. Aaron moved with the Braves to Atlanta, Georgia and went on to play 23 seasons in Major League Baseball, all but his final 2 seasons with the Braves in Milwaukee and then Atlanta;

Whereas, on April 4, 1974, Mr. Aaron tied Babe Ruth's home run record by hitting home run number 714 in a game against the

Cincinnati Reds on his first swing of the season;

Whereas, on the evening of April 8, 1974, Mr. Aaron made history by breaking Babe Ruth's record when he hit home run number 715 against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, cementing his place in history as the Nation's home run king;

Whereas, during the historic moment, veteran baseball broadcaster Vin Scully announced, "What a marvelous moment for baseball. What a marvelous moment for Atlanta and the State of Georgia. What a marvelous moment for the country and the world. A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol.";

Whereas Mr. Aaron went on to hit 755 home runs in his career, a home run record that went unbroken for more than 30 years, with his final home run coming on July 20, 1976;

Whereas, at the time of his passing, Mr. Aaron held the Major League Baseball records for the most career runs batted in (2,297), extra base hits (1,477), and total bases (6,856);

Whereas, at the time of his passing, Mr. Aaron was 1 of only 4 players to have at least 17 seasons with 150 or more hits, was in second place for most in home runs and at-bats (12,364), and was in third place for most games played (3,298) and hits (3,771);

Whereas, in addition to his records, Mr. Aaron achieved numerous career highlights and awards, including—

(1) becoming the ninth player to achieve the 3,000 hit milestone and the first player to achieve both 500 home runs and 3,000 hits;

(2) being a 2-time National League batting champion;

(3) winning the National League's single-season home run title 4 times;

(4) achieving a career batting average of .305;

(5) being voted an All-Star in all but his first and last seasons; and

(6) winning 3 Gold Glove awards for his play as a right fielder;

Whereas Mr. Aaron achieved these milestones while bravely facing racism at every stage of his historic career, including being barred from hotels where his minor league white teammates stayed, receiving many racist letters and threats, and even needing protection from law enforcement at games to protect against racist violence or harassment;

Whereas during his career Mr. Aaron became a national symbol for perseverance by demonstrating athletic greatness and strength while enduring vicious racism and hate, helping advance the cause for civil rights and becoming a civic leader in the Black community.

Whereas Mr. Aaron became the first Black American to hold a senior management position in Major League Baseball as a front office executive with the Atlanta Braves, supported the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP"), and founded the Chasing the Dream Foundation to support underprivileged youth through mentorship and financial support;

Whereas, in April 1977, the Atlanta Braves retired Mr. Aaron's Number 44, erected a statue in his honor in 1982, and named the address of their second home, Turner Field, as 755 Hank Aaron Drive;

Whereas Mr. Aaron is an integral part of Mobile, Alabama history and has been recognized by the city through the construction of a stadium, opening of a museum, and naming of a park, in his honor;

Whereas, in 1982, his first year of eligibility, Mr. Aaron was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, receiving 97.8 percent of the

vote, the second-highest tally at the time only to Ty Cobb;

Whereas, on the 25th anniversary of Mr. Aaron's 715th home run, Major League Baseball created the Hank Aaron Award, given annually to the players with the best overall offensive performances in each league;

Whereas, in 2002, Mr. Aaron received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian award, from President George W. Bush, with the citation noting that Mr. Aaron "embodies the true spirit of our Nation"; and

Whereas at the time of his passing, Mr. Aaron was long renowned for having uplifted the Black community and improved human relations over his career through his tremendous display of dignity and long record of achievement in the face of racism and hate, cementing his legacy as a leading figure for civil rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Henry Louis Aaron for his accomplishments on and off the baseball field, and for defying racism and breaking down racial barriers in the fight for equality as one of the last Major League Baseball All-Stars to have played in the Negro leagues;

(2) proclaims that Henry Louis Aaron indeed embodied the true spirit and promise of our Nation, reflected the best of the determination and perseverance of the people of the United States, and exemplified the indomitable will of Black Americans to overcome impossible odds to achieve greatness in the face of relentless adversity and racism; and

(3) recognizes the life and legacy of Henry Louis Aaron as an important figure in the fight for civil rights, as well as one of the greatest and most prolific baseball players and professional athletes of the United States, of all time.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO A FREE SOCIETY AND PROTECTED FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE 235TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas the democracy of the United States is rooted in the fundamental truth that all people are created equal, endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas the freedom of conscience was highly valued by—

(1) individuals seeking religious freedom who settled in the colonies in the United States;

(2) the founders of the United States; and

(3) Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in a letter to the Society of the Methodist Episcopal

Church at New London, Connecticut, dated February 4, 1809, that “[n]o provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprizes of the civil authority”;

Whereas the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was—

(1) drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who considered the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom to be one of his greatest achievements;

(2) enacted on January 16, 1786; and

(3) the forerunner to the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) states that—

(1) “[t]he right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States”; and

(2) religious freedom was established by the founders of the United States “in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation”;

Whereas the role of religion in society and public life in the United States has a long and robust tradition;

Whereas individuals who have studied the democracy of the United States from an international perspective, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, have noted that religion plays a central role in preserving the Government of the United States because religion provides the moral base required for democracy to succeed;

Whereas, in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. 1811 (2014), the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that “people of many faiths may be united in a community of tolerance and devotion”;

Whereas the principle of religious freedom “has guided our Nation forward”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2011, and freedom of religion “is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe”, as expressed by that President of the United States on Religious Freedom Day in 2013;

Whereas “[f]reedom of religion is a fundamental human right that must be upheld by every nation and guaranteed by every government”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1999;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects—

(1) the right of individuals to freely express and act on the religious beliefs of those individuals; and

(2) individuals from coercion to profess or act on a religious belief to which those individuals do not adhere;

Whereas “our laws and institutions should not impede or hinder but rather should protect and preserve fundamental religious liberties”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in remarks accompanying the signing of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.);

Whereas, for countless people of the United States, faith is an integral part of every aspect of daily life and is not limited to the homes, houses of worship, or doctrinal creeds of those individuals;

Whereas “religious faith has inspired many of our fellow citizens to help build a better Nation” in which “people of faith continue to wage a determined campaign to meet needs and fight suffering”, as expressed by the 43rd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2003;

Whereas, “[f]rom its birth to this day, the United States has prized this legacy of religious freedom and honored this heritage by standing for religious freedom and offering refuge to those suffering religious persecution”, as noted in section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a));

Whereas Thomas Jefferson wrote—

(1) in 1798 that each right encompassed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is dependent on the other rights described in that Amendment, “thereby guarding in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press: insomuch, that whatever violated either, throws down the sanctuary which covers the others”; and

(2) in 1822 that the constitutional freedom of religion is “the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights”;

Whereas religious freedom “has been integral to the preservation and development of the United States”, and “the free exercise of religion goes hand in hand with the preservation of our other rights”, as expressed by the 41st President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1993; and

Whereas we “continue to proclaim the fundamental right of all peoples to believe and worship according to their own conscience, to affirm their beliefs openly and freely, and to practice their faith without fear or intimidation”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) on Religious Freedom Day on January 16, 2021, honors the 235th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; and

(2) affirms that—

(A) for individuals of any faith and individuals of no faith, religious freedom includes the right of an individual to live, work, associate, and worship in accordance with the beliefs of the individual;

(B) all people of the United States can be unified in supporting religious freedom, regardless of differing individual beliefs, because religious freedom is a fundamental human right; and

(C) “the American people will remain forever unshackled in matters of faith”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2012.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, February 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Mayorkas nomination as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Mayorkas nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:33 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 1, 2021, at 3 p.m.